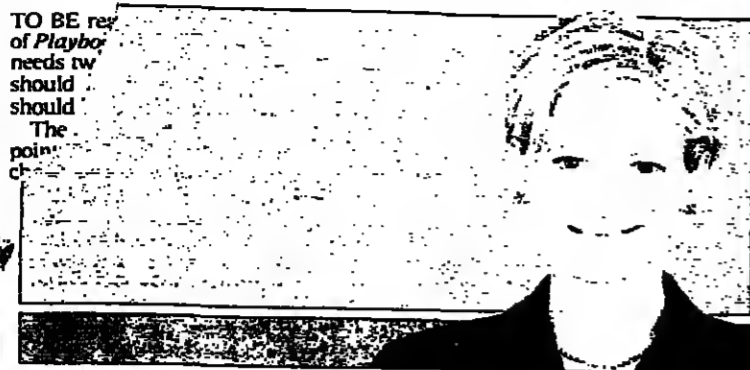


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Where
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ROYAL
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SOCKING FILLER: 20 PER CENT OFF AT SOCK SHOP page 44

Passions flare over Lords reform

Cheering breaks tradition of silence

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE future of the Lords was established yesterday as the battlefield for the next political year as tensions erupted in both Houses of Parliament over the Government's plan to strip 750 hereditary peers of their voting rights.

After a Queen's speech announcing 22 Bills ranging from welfare reform to trade on the Internet, Tony Blair and William Hague clashed furiously over Lords reform, with Mr Hague saying that it would hang like a millstone round Mr Blair's neck and the Prime Minister declaring that he would kill the Tory claim to a "divine right" to govern.

Their Commons confrontation followed unusual events in the Lords, where the Queen's speech was interrupted for the first time in the modern age. She is usually heard in silence, but her announcement of the plans for the Lords was greeted by cheers from Labour peers and MPs, and murmurings of disapproval — either about their fate or the breach with tradition — from Tory peers. The Queen, apparently surprised, looked up briefly before continuing.

It was an illustration of the anger on both sides in both Houses for what may turn out to be the ultimate constitutional confrontation. And while Mr Blair led a determined offensive to focus attention on other measures, Labour strategists admitted that the way the Lords behaved in the face of their own destruction would dominate the session.

The issue has clearly influenced the shape of the programme with at least five substantial Bills — on food standards, elected mayors, freedom of information, a strategic rail authority and political funding — held over. Paddy Ashdown complained that too much was being held over for another time: "This Queen's speech kicks so much off the field that after it there will be standing room only in the long grass."



Lady Haden-Guest, better known as Jamie Lee Curtis, with Lords Cockfield, St John of Fawsley, Monteagle, Evans of Watford, Rosslyn, Tomlinson and Ahmed, and Lady Munster

Ministers have already conceded that without help from Tory peers their Bill to introduce PR for the European elections next year cannot get through in time. The Lords Bill itself will contain only a handful of clauses and will not enter Parliament until next year. But no one can be sure how peers' attitude to the Bill ending their voting rights will spill over into obstruction on other government measures.

Mr Hague was roared on by Tory MPs as he accused Mr Blair of wanting to neuter the Lords and replace the "independent" second chamber with a "House of cronies". The Government was setting up a Royal Commission on the Lords that was expected to report within two years, Mr Hague said, and should wait to see what would replace the existing arrangements before changing them. He was warning the whole of the coming year on a "piece of constitutional vandalism that will be obsolescent in just 24 months". Mr Blair said that it simply could not be right for the Lords to be dominated by 750 hereditaries out of a total of 1,100.

Of those who took the whip the vast bulk were Tories, ensuring that one House in the two-House system was permanently in their hands. "It is time to end the feudal domination of one half of our legislature by a Tory Party that claims a divine right to govern this country," he said. The Government will bring in a White Paper setting out new arrangements for appointing life peers. Under the proposals, Mr Blair will relinquish the Prime Minister's sole right of patronage and establish a Royal Commission to review further changes and suggest reforms.

In the Lords, Baroness Jay urged peers not to obstruct the reform. But Viscount Cranborne, the Opposition Leader, said the announcement of the Bill had tinged the State Opening with "great sadness". He said: "Emotions will certainly run high, and the measured judgment in great matters that the public has come to expect of your Lordships' House, will require an extra effort of will by all of us."

Queen's speech, pages 9-12
Simon Jenkins, page 22
Leading article, page 23
Reform delay, page 27

THE MAIN BILLS

Health: end the NHS internal market and replace GP fund-holding.
Welfare: all benefit claimants to attend a job interview; more targeting of benefits; first stage of pension reforms.
Crime: overhaul of youth courts; greater protection to vulnerable witnesses.
House of Lords: remove voting rights of hereditary peers. Access to Justice: give solicitors wider access to higher courts; more targeted legal aid; give private security firms power to arrest fine defaulters.
Fairness to Work: new rights

for workers including automatic union recognition where 40 per cent of the workforce want it or where 50 per cent are union members.
Asylum and Immigration: crackdown on asylum seekers, replacing cash handouts with benefits in kind to deter bogus applicants.
Age of Consent: lower the age of homosexual consent from 18 to 16 in line with that for heterosexuals.
London: set up mechanisms for a directly-elected mayor of London and Greater London Authority.

Hague accused of 'gutter' sneer

By ROLAND WATSON,
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Mandelson's advisers last night accused William Hague of "entering the gutter" after the Tory leader used the opening of the Parliamentary session to make a veiled reference to allegations about the Trade Secretary's private life.

Mr Hague's decision stunned MPs gathered in the Commons to hear the Leader of the Opposition's keynote address replying to the Queen's Speech. During a rhetorical assault about the reformed House of Lords becoming a chamber of "Tony's cronies", Mr Hague said the future upper House would include "Lord Mandelson of Rio".

It was a reference to an article in last week's Punch claiming that Mr Mandelson had visited a gay nightclub — a claim denied by the minister.

Last night a friend of Mr Mandelson said: "Mr Hague has in the past refrained from entering the gutter occupied by so many of his colleagues." Mr Hague's office defended the comment as "a little bit of light entertainment".

The reference to Rio was in the text of Mr Hague's speech, written by the Tory leader. He also mentioned "Lord Draper of Lobbygate", a reference to Derek Draper, the former lobbyist, and "Lord Robinson of Offshore Funds in the Island of Guernsey", a reference to Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General.

A spokesman for Mr Hague said the reference to Mr Mandelson was "just a reference to a place that he likes to visit".

Mandelson secret, page 2

Duma reformer is buried

Galina Starovoltova, the murdered Duma deputy, was buried in St Petersburg's Alexander Nevsky Monastery. Leading pro-democracy politicians joined her family and friends and hundreds of supporters mourned quietly in the streets outside. Page 18

Sir John Major

John Major is to become a Knight of the Garter, replacing Lord Hunt. He will be installed next April, on St George's Day. Page 22

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Up in smoke: the Toyota Corolla catches fire within sight of the finish of the rally

Rally driver burns out 300 metres from glory

By KEVIN EASON

CARLOS SAINZ has pursued the World Rally Championship for almost 15,000 miles across the sand, mud and gravel of five continents. Yesterday, he was 300 metres from triumph when the engine of his car burst into flames and stopped.

It was a moment to rank in the pantheon of great sporting disasters, with the heart-broken Spaniard able to see the finishing post of the Network Q Rally of Great Britain through the mud-spattered windshield of his Toyota Corolla, yet helpless to stagger past it.

While Sainz contemplated his misfortune, the new champion was also disconsolate. Knowing nothing of the disaster, Tommi Makinen had packed his bags and was preparing to fly home to Finland. Makinen had come to Britain to defend a two-point lead in the 13-rally championship only to fall victim to equally bitter

circumstances. A 31-year-old Hillman Imp dumped its engine oil on the circuit within a few miles of the start on Sunday and Makinen skidded on the slick, smashed into a concrete block and wrecked his Mitsubishi Lancer.

That meant Sainz had to come only fourth to claim the championship for the third time. For three days, it was a virtual cruise, that fourth place secure, and yesterday spectators waited in the sunshine at Margam Park in South Wales to cheer him home...and waited.

The leaders tore through the grassland to finish the 1,100-mile rally, but their first sight of Sainz was when his car coasted to a halt, flames spurting from the bonnet.

The inconsolable Spaniard clambered out and burst into tears. His co-driver, Luis Moya, at least gave vent to his frustration, kicking the stranded car before tearing off his helmet and hurling it at the smoke-blackened bodywork.

The first man on the mobile telephone was Tuomo Makinen, who had watched incredulously and was just in time to catch his brother carrying his bags down to his airport taxi.

"He said, 'Don't go, don't go. You have won,'" the champion said. "I told him to stop joking. I could not believe what had happened. I had given up and just wanted to go home. It must be terrible for Carlos."

So terrible that Sainz was unable to speak through his emotions and retreated to the sanctuary of his hotel.

In tears: co-driver Moya
Briton triumphs, page 50

Major critical of Army social 'elite' faces discharge

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

MAJOR Eric Joyce, who has been in dispute with the Army since publishing a controversial pamphlet in August last year criticising the "elite" in the Service, is to be told to resign or face "administrative discharge".

All the senior officers involved in his chain of command, including General Sir Michael Walker, the Commander-in-Chief Land Command, have recommended the two-option ultimatum and the matter is now in the hands of the Army Board.

The 38-year-old officer with the Adjutant General's Corps, who was sent home in February on full pay, has been invited to appear before the Army Board on December 18.

The board, which is the Army's senior decision-making body, is expected to concur with the opinion of Major Joyce's commanding officer that he leave the Service.

Last night Major Joyce said he had not made up his mind whether to accept the Army Board's invitation. "If I decide I want to fight to stay in the Army, then I shall obviously take the opportunity to address the board. But if I decide to resign then I won't."

He said: "I have been in the Army now for 20 years and it would be a pity to end my career by being forced out... The whole process of administrative discharge is archaic and outmoded and I feel I'm being unfairly treated."

Ever since the publication of his article in a Fabian Society pamphlet in which he accused the Army of maintaining a



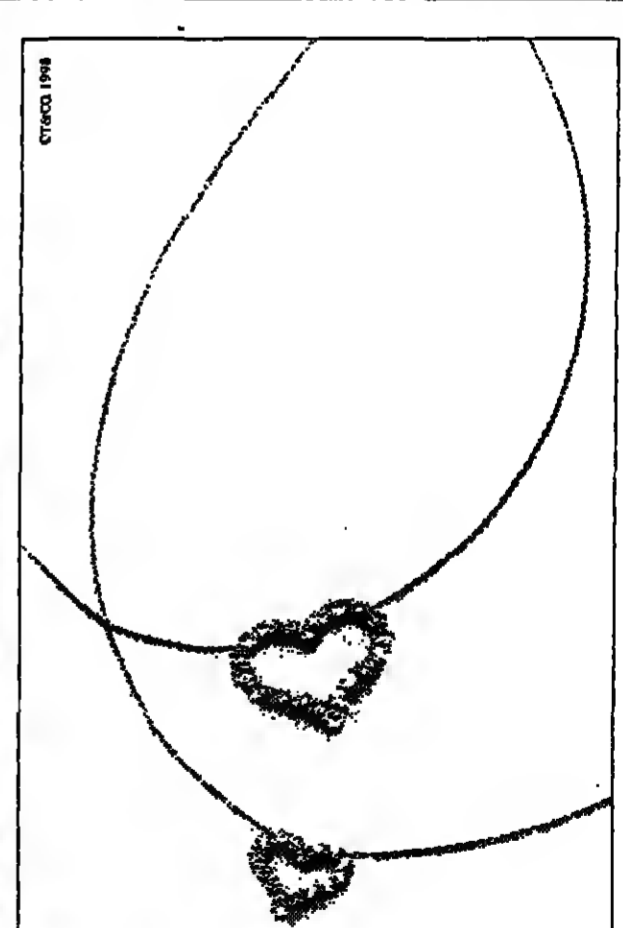
Major Joyce: "I feel I'm being unfairly treated"

class system and being run by a social elite, he has created an embarrassing dilemma for his superior officers.

Originally, he faced court martial or other disciplinary proceedings for breaching the regulations under which officers are prohibited from writing articles about the Service without permission.

That threat was dropped, even though he continued to make public comments about the Army in newspapers, on radio and television. He was much in demand.

The officer is hoping to be included on the Labour Party's list of candidates for the Scottish Parliament.



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LSE faces revolt over plan to raise fees

By Victoria Fletcher

ONE of Tony Blair's leading academic advisers faced a student revolt last night after proposing a 30 per cent rise in tuition fees at the London School of Economics.

Anthony Giddens, who is director of the LSE, said the rise from £5,500 to £7,150 for British postgraduates would bring the fees more in line with those paid by overseas students.

But, in a demonstration reminiscent of the LSE's years as a hotbed of radicalism in the 1960s, students and lecturers said the rise would deter British postgraduates, and would be widely interpreted as a test-bed for increasing university income by squeezing more money from students.

Professor Giddens is a political sociologist known to be in regular contact with the Prime Minister. In September, he accompanied Mr Blair to America for a seminar with President Clinton on how the United States had interpreted the "third way" and how more flesh could be put on the new political philosophy.

The plans are part of a package to be examined over the coming weeks by the governing body of the LSE. Overseas students who already pay more than £9,000 per year for the course will only have their fees raised in line with the 3.5 per cent basic rate of inflation.

Last night the 30 students at the demonstration accused their governing body of trading education for financial reward. Narius Aga, the general secretary of the student union, said: "This would create a very dangerous intake based on financial and not academic means. We are astounded that LSE are considering it, and if they are wanting to compete with Oxbridge, this is not the way forward."

A spokeswoman for the Association of University Teachers said that the proposals were the first in what could become

a worrying trend in education. "This is the first. It won't be the last. Universities will make postgraduates pay however they can if they are desperate for money. It will put education solely into the hands of those who can pay," she said.

However, Professor Giddens insisted that the LSE had made no firm decisions and was still looking "at all options" for addressing funding.

He added: "We must not do anything to penalise UK students and I hope there will not be too much dissension. We are already concerned to expand access and we are looking to drive more fund-raising for scholarships."

In 1960s there were protests at the LSE over the right for access to information and for students to be given more of a voice. Even Baroness Blackstone, then a junior lecturer and now the Higher Education Minister in the Lords, became involved in a sit-in.

Many former alumni have become famous, and include Karl Popper, William Beveridge, John F. Kennedy and Cherie Blair.

The LSE Standing Committee met to discuss the plans for the first time last night, and agreed to refer the issue back for further consultation on the grounds that it had not established whether higher fees would deter students and effect access. If this were found to be the case, the committee decided, an increase in hardship funds would also have to be introduced.

A spokesperson for the Department for Education and Employment yesterday said it hoped the LSE would veto the proposals. "The Government has not yet announced new rates for postgraduate students. This will be announced next month. We surprised they are proposing a rise more than the rate of inflation. Hopefully they will not do it."



The Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton. Sea winds fanned the flames of the fire, thought to have started in a chip pan in the ground-floor kitchen

By Helen Johnstone

A COUPLE slept on for more than three hours as the hotel at which they were staying was burning down around them. They did not leave their first-floor room until the fire had spread to all five floors.

When the middle-aged couple, booked in under the name of Burton, eventually rushed out of the front of the Royal Albion Hotel in Brighton, onlookers and hotel staff

Couple slept on for hours as hotel burnt around them

said that they were lucky to be alive. They were directed to the nearby Thistle Hotel along with other guests, many of whom were still in their nightclothes, but they left soon afterwards. They were among 120

guests and 30 staff evacuated without injury from the 115-bedroom hotel which dates back 170 years and is partially Grade II listed.

Strong sea winds had fanned the flames, and firefighters had to pump water

from the sea to tackle the fire. Emergency services cleared hundreds of onlookers away from the seafront as huge chunks of masonry and tiles crashed to the ground.

The hotel was staging a civil servants' union conference

when fire broke out just after 8am yesterday. It is believed to have started when a chip pan in a ground-floor kitchen caught fire and spread through a ventilation shaft to the top of the building.

Caroline Day, 28, one of the guests, last night criticised the evacuation procedures. Ms Day, who was in a room on the fourth floor, said that she had not been alerted by the hotel alarm, which sounded like a car alarm.

Tory leader hints at Mandelson mystery

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

FOUR words spoken by the Tory leader William Hague finally gave voice yesterday to one of the worst-kept secrets in Westminster.

Standing at the despatch box, Mr Hague made the first oblique reference in Parliament to allegations about Peter Mandelson's private life which have appeared in the latest issue of *Punch* magazine. National newspapers, television and radio have pointedly avoided repeating the claims which centre on the Trade Secretary's alleged activities whilst on a ministerial trip to

Brazil. Mr Hague dropped what was being regarded by MPs as a minor bombshell as he called for the Prime Minister's move to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights in the House of Lords. With a look of defiance the Opposition leader said: "He wants to create a House of Cronies beholden to him and him alone. It would be a House populated by Lord Draper of Lobbygate, Lord Robinson of Offshore Funds, Lord Mandelson of Rio and the Prime Minister himself, Baron of Ideas."

ITN broadcast the soundbite on its early evening news but did not seek to explain Mr Hague's reference to Rio and the Trade Secretary. The only view-

ers who may have understood the reference would have been regular readers of *Punch* or those who managed to catch the first edition of *The Daily Telegraph* last Wednesday.

The newspaper had run a story alluding to the allegations in *Punch* which concerned Mr Mandelson's homosexuality and the visit to Brazil in July. Without giving any detail, *The Daily Telegraph* claimed that the magazine article was highly actionable and amounted to a direct challenge to sue. However, the story was pulled after Mr Mandelson's aide telephoned the newspaper to advise them that the story was "utterly untrue". Mr Mandelson's private life has been the subject of national debate since *The Times* columnist Matthew Parris described him as "certainly gay" in response to a question from Jeremy Paxman on BBC2's *Newsnight*. *The Express* on Sunday revived the story with a report entitled Peter's Friend which described in careful language Mr Mandelson's association with a Brazilian student now living in Japan. The student was said to have been close to John Major's former Downing Street adviser Howell James. The paper's Editor in Chief, Rosie Boycott, a neighbour of Mr Mandelson, insisted the article was read to him before publication.

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British TV triumphs at Emmies

BRITISH television productions, including BBC's *The Vicar of Dibley*, have captured half the major titles at the International Emmy Awards, which honour the best shows made outside America.

The comedy won the Popular Arts category for the final episode of the most recent series, which were made for the BBC by Tiger Aspect Productions. It was one of two BBC shows in the shortlist for the 60th - the other being BBC2's *Goodness Gracious Me*.

Dawn French, who stars in *The Vicar of Dibley*, said: "I would like to bless everybody involved and I am pleased that my plan of sleeping with all the judges from the four corners of the world clearly paid off."

A British-made version of the ballet, *The Judas Tree*, co-produced by Channel 4, won the Performing Arts title. The ballet was inspired by the events of Tiananmen Square.

Newsman denies 'dumbing down'

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

TREVOR McDONALD made a public pledge yesterday that his new early evening news programme would not be "a dumbed-down version" of *News at Ten*, which will be taken off the air in January.

Responding to the Labour MP Gerald Kaufman's assertion that the Independent Television Commission's decision to axe the 31-year-old programme was a "milestone in the dumbing down of Britain", Mr McDonald said that the new 6.30pm bulletin would be as good as, if not better than, *News at Ten*.

Mr McDonald, who will host the new 30-minute programme, to be called *The Evening News*, said that it would be a serious news bulletin which would rival the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*.

It was confirmed yesterday that the famous "bongs" which announced *News at Ten* have been preserved for *The Evening News*. ITV's new

11pm bulletin, *The Nightly News*, will be presented by Dermot Murnaghan.

Mr Kaufman, the chairman of the Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport, has accused ITV of being "patronising and offensive" in their bid to change their schedules and appeal to the "chattering classes of Islington."

Yesterday Mr McDonald said that he was saddened by the demise of *News at Ten*, but relieved that the debate which had "ragged for years" had finally been resolved.

"We are determined to make the 6.30 news work. This is going to be a high-quality news programme, don't worry about that," he said.

"We will retain all the best elements of *News at Ten* and have the best stories," Mr McDonald said that he was unfazed by dominance of the *Six O'Clock News* over ITV's 5.40 news. "That is about to change," he said.

Nuclear pills

Some 550 families living near two nuclear power stations in Somerset will be sent protective tablets to take in case of a nuclear accident. Packets of potassium iodide, which protect against radioactive iodine, have been distributed in Sturminster Newton, near the Hinkley Point site. A spokesman said that it was not because of increased risk of an accident.

Singer is freed

The rock musician Ian Brown was released from prison on bail pending an appeal against his conviction and four-month prison sentence for using threatening behaviour on an aircraft. The 35-year-old former Stone Roses singer was jailed after magistrates in Manchester heard he threatened an air stewardess.

Hague flies to bird-breeder's aid

By Paul Wilkinson

WILLIAM HAGUE has become embroiled in a dispute over the status of an aviary full of rare cockatoos and macaws.

Some of them have, like the original Monty Python parrot, passed away since Customs and Excise began to investigate Harry Sissen, a prominent bird breeder in Mr Hague's North Yorkshire constituency.

Mr Sissen was raided in the spring by officials in search of illegally imported parrots. Scores of birds worth a total of £200,000, including a number of endangered varieties, were seized.

Mr Sissen, 60, claims that at least five of the birds, which can fetch thousands of pounds each on a thriving world black market, have since died. The rest of his stock of about 500 birds has been impounded at the aviary.

In the course of a consultation with his MP on the matter, Mr Sissen admitted smuggling three Lear's macaws,

worth about £50,000, into the country from Yugoslavia. When details of this appeared in a specialist magazine, Customs and Excise asked the Tory leader and his constituency secretary to provide witness statements for use in a possible prosecution.

Last night a constituency spokesman said: "Mr Hague advised Mr Sissen to tell the authorities about these birds, but he could not compel him to do so. Now Customs are aware of it we have been asked to make a statement. It could be that Mr Hague could appear in court as a hostile witness against a constituent he has been trying to help."

In the meantime Mr Hague has written to Customs and Excise asking them to answer complaints that they have breached rules regarding the seizure of the birds and pressing them to bring charges or drop the investigation.

Mr Sissen says that his birds have been reared from nethers already in captivity, many of which he has had

since he began breeding 35 years ago.

Yesterday he headed off an attempt by a Customs vet and officials to take blood samples that could help to identify the origin of eight birds which are endangered breeds.

At his farm outside Northallerton he persuaded the vet that taking the samples in the afternoon would disturb the birds' pattern and could lead to their deaths. After he quoted Environment Department reg-

ulations which say that sampling should only be done in the morning, the Customs men retired, promising to return on Monday before noon.

"Some of the birds have got youngsters and I am not going to have them traumatised," Mr Sissen said. He admitted importing the macaws illegally, but said that he had been in the process of applying for permits when the raids took place. He said Mr Hague had been very supportive.

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Playboy's perfect woman is dead sexy

Robin Young ponders why the magazine's top 100 includes so few stars who are either alive or brunette

TO BE really sexy in the eyes of *Playboy* magazine a woman needs two vital attributes. She should be blonde and she should be deceased.

The magazine, long a self-appointed arbiter of feminine pulchritude, has published its list of the 100 sexiest women of the century. The two top sirens, according to the magazine's listing, are Marilyn Monroe, who appeared on *Playboy*'s first cover in 1953 and died nearly 40 years ago, and Jayne Mansfield, busty star of the rock 'n' roll film *The Girl Can't Help It*, who was decapitated in a road accident in 1962.

Other deceased blondes featured in the list include Jean Harlow, the original "blonde bombshell" (10th), Anita Ekberg, star of *La Dolce Vita* (14th), the leggy Betty Grable



Sexy stars: Marilyn Monroe, top of the list; Grace Kelly, 26th; Raquel Welch, third; and Joan Collins, 38th

(17th), sultry Kim (Kiss me Steppin') Novak (18th), Lana Turner (25th) and Grace Kelly (26th).

Overcoming the disadvantages of being both brunette and still alive, but notably well

endowed in the bosom department, Raquel Welch is preferred to the animals' best friend, Brigitte Bardot, to finish third. The surgically enhanced Pamela Anderson totters in eighth, while Bo Derek

from the film *10* goes one better to finish at No 9.

The list is dominated by film stars from Hollywood's golden age, and Cindy Crawford is the top-ranked beauty from the world of modelling. Placed

fifth, she is well ahead of Elle Macpherson (23rd) and Claudia Schiffer (59th).

Americans start with a huge advantage in the American publication's ratings. Sophia Loren is the most highly rated

European (60th), with Ursula Andress 19th, Gina Lollobrigida 20th and Catherine Deneuve 45th.

Joan Collins is the sexiest Briton in *Playboy*'s lustful eyes (38th) — unless we can still claim Elizabeth Taylor (seventh). Our very own deceased blonde, Diana Dors, is placed 92nd.

It is disappointing to find that some long-venerated sex symbols appear to have undergone a loss of allure down the years. Marlene Dietrich seems under-rated at 32nd, and the inestimably suggestive Mae West would surely have something to say about being placed 46th.

The list also does away with the idea of *Playboy* readers than it does about the sexiness of women.

THE SEXIEST WOMEN OF THE CENTURY

- Marilyn Monroe 1, Jayne Mansfield 2, Raquel Welch 3, Brigitte Bardot 4, Elizabeth Taylor 5, Sophia Loren 6, Cindy Crawford 7, Diana Dors 8, Pamela Anderson 9, Bo Derek 10, Jean Harlow 11, Rita Hayworth 12, Kim Basinger 13, Marilyn Monroe 14, Anita Ekberg 15, Jenny Holzer 16, Fanny Brice 17, Betty Grable 18, Kim Novak 19, Angela Basset 20, Gina Lollobrigida 21, Evelyn Nesbit 22, Jane Fonda 23, Elle Macpherson 24, Sharon Stone 25, Lana Turner 26, Grace Kelly 27, Slim Pickens 28, Jane Fonda 29, Marnie Nixon 30, Ane Wiering 31, Elke Sommer 32, Marlene Dietrich 33, Bette Midler 34, Lovelace 35, Madonna 36, Heath Ledger 37, Vanessa Williams 38, Joan Collins 39, Candy Lovell 40, Cilla Bow 41, Josephine Baker 42, Angie Dickinson 43, Elizabeth Taylor 44, Mae West 45, Catherine Deneuve 46, Donna Douglas 47, Halle Berry 48, Candy Barr 49, Brooke Shields 50, Suzanne Somers
- OTHER PLACINGS**
- Grete Garbo 51, Claudia Schiffer 52, Christie Brinkley 53, Julie Christie 54, Neve Campbell 55, Demi Moore 56, Ava Gardner 57, Diana Ross 58, Gypsy Rose Lee 59, Joan Crawford 60, Diana Dors 61, Fay Wray 62, Keaton 63, Rosalind Wisn 64, Dolly Parton 65, Milla Jovovich 66, Lillian Hellman

Fears grow for little girl lost for two nights

By Paul Wilkinson

POLICE and volunteers spent a second night searching in sub-zero temperatures for Charlotte Jones, the three-year-old who vanished from her front garden on Monday evening.

Her mother, Michelle, 24, told police that the girl disappeared after they had gone to the front gate to say goodbye to a visitor, believed to be the child's social worker.

Yesterday, forensic teams erected a large tent in the front garden of the house in Dal-

lam, near Warrington, Cheshire. In what they described as a routine step, police took away Miss Jones's black Vauxhall Astra for examination.

Charlotte and her mother moved into the house three months ago and police are concerned that if the girl got lost she may have come to harm either on the railway or Dallam Brook canal, both of which run close to her home. Divers searched the canal yesterday and a helicopter with a heat-sensing device scoured the railway and a neighbouring park.

Officers from four forces have been brought in to search for Charlotte. Chief Inspector Tim Jackson, of Cheshire Police, said: "We are treating Charlotte as lost but we are very concerned for her safety."

Police are trying to trace Charlotte's father, who separated from her mother soon after the child was born. Mr Jackson said: "They do not know where the father is, but he is not part of the inquiry."

Charlotte is 3ft 6in and was wearing a purple bubble jacket, a Winnie-the-Pooh jumper and 101 Dalmatians leggings.



Charlotte Jones: missing since Monday evening



A police underwater unit searching the canal near Charlotte's home yesterday. Officers are afraid she may have fallen into the water

Trawler snatches fisheries navy men

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

ROYAL NAVY officers were kidnapped by Dutch fishermen during a confrontation in the North Sea, it was disclosed yesterday.

Four officers from HMS *Quorn*, a minehunter assigned to fisheries protection duty for the Ministry of Agriculture, boarded a Dutch trawler in the Dover Straits before dawn on November 19.

When asked to haul up his fishing gear for inspection, the trawler master allegedly threatened the boarding party with violence before jettisoning his nets and making a dash for Belgian waters with the navy men still on board.

"The men were held for about an hour and allowed off to return to HMS *Quorn* inside the Belgian 12-mile limit, where British fisheries protection vessels have no jurisdiction," a Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said.

"The incident began with two officers going on board for a routine inspection to check the size of nets and catches recorded in the log book. When it became clear that the Dutch master was not cooperating, two more officers went on board."

"The *Jozina* eventually put into the Dutch port of Flushing, while HMS *Quorn* returned to British waters to search in vain for the nets."

"The matter is now with the Dutch authorities who are investigating the incident," the spokesman said. "Obviously we will be keeping an eye on the Dutch vessel and would like to speak to the master if he comes into British waters again."

Hundreds of inspections are carried out every year by the fisheries protection squadron of seven purpose-built offshore patrol boats and four minehunters. Several years ago a French trawler off the Channel Islands made off with fisheries inspection officers on board and released them in Normandy.

How researchers got dunking to a tea

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE latest scientific research took the biscuit yesterday, by discovering the glories and hazards of dunking. It revealed what many of the kconest practitioners have long known: that a timely dunk — not too short, not too long — of a biscuit into a cup of tea releases ten times the flavour achieved by eating the biscuit dry.

The study also demonstrated the level of skill involved. A biscuit dipped in hot tea is living dangerously: its pores soak up the tea, its starch particles begin to expand, and the sugar that binds it together begins to melt. It is all too easy to leave half a sodden biscuit at the bottom of the cup.

Len Fisher, an honorary research fellow at the University of Bristol, says

that the rate at which a biscuit soaks up tea depends on the viscosity and surface tension of the tea, and the pore diameter of the biscuit. This given by Washburn's equation, first worked out 80 years ago by Cyril Washburn, a scientist interested in how quickly blotting paper soaks up ink.

Of the three biscuits tested, Hobnobs had the smallest pores, Digestives the next smallest and Ginger Nuts the largest. This suggested that Hobnobs ought to provide the longest dunk, but the experiments proved otherwise.

In fact, the Digestives survived longest — eight seconds in tea at 80C — against four seconds for Hobnobs and as little as three for the Ginger Nuts.

This was because Digestives have a hard-baked outer layer, which lowers their porosity.

What happens next is that the wetted biscuit starts to warm up. When it reaches 68C, the starch grains start to take up water and swell. "They can take up 100 times their own volume of water" says Dr Fisher. Tests showed that the process weakens the biscuit, which begins to deform under its own weight.

"Dry biscuits are incredibly strong," says Dr Fisher. "In theory, they should be able to support their own weight if only a hundredth of their thickness remains dry. But in practice they start to go much sooner as cracks spread."

There is one way of stopping this,

and that is to prevent cracks ever starting. A chocolate coating, which has plastic properties, is the ideal material. So a chocolate digestive, laid chocolate-side up on the surface of the tea at a very shallow angle, offers the perfect dunk.

"It releases the flavour, and doesn't fall apart," says Dr Fisher with the air of a man who has just discovered the Theory of Relativity.

His work was financed by McVitie's to celebrate what they call National Dunking Day. At their sites around the country, staff were engaged on various competitions involving dunking, all in aid of charity. Their aim was to raise at least £5,000 for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

A GANG including a boy of 15 threatened to chop off a businessman's fingers in a 13-hour kidnap ordeal.

Two members of the gang, who were discovered in an Oxfordshire hideout, were last night starting jail sentences. The teenage son of one of them was given a supervision order.

They bundled Ian Faulk into a car boot after abducting him at a service station on the M4 near Newbury, Berkshire, in January. They forced him to reveal his bank details by threatening to mutilate him.

Boy, 15, recruited into kidnap gang

By Helen Johnstone

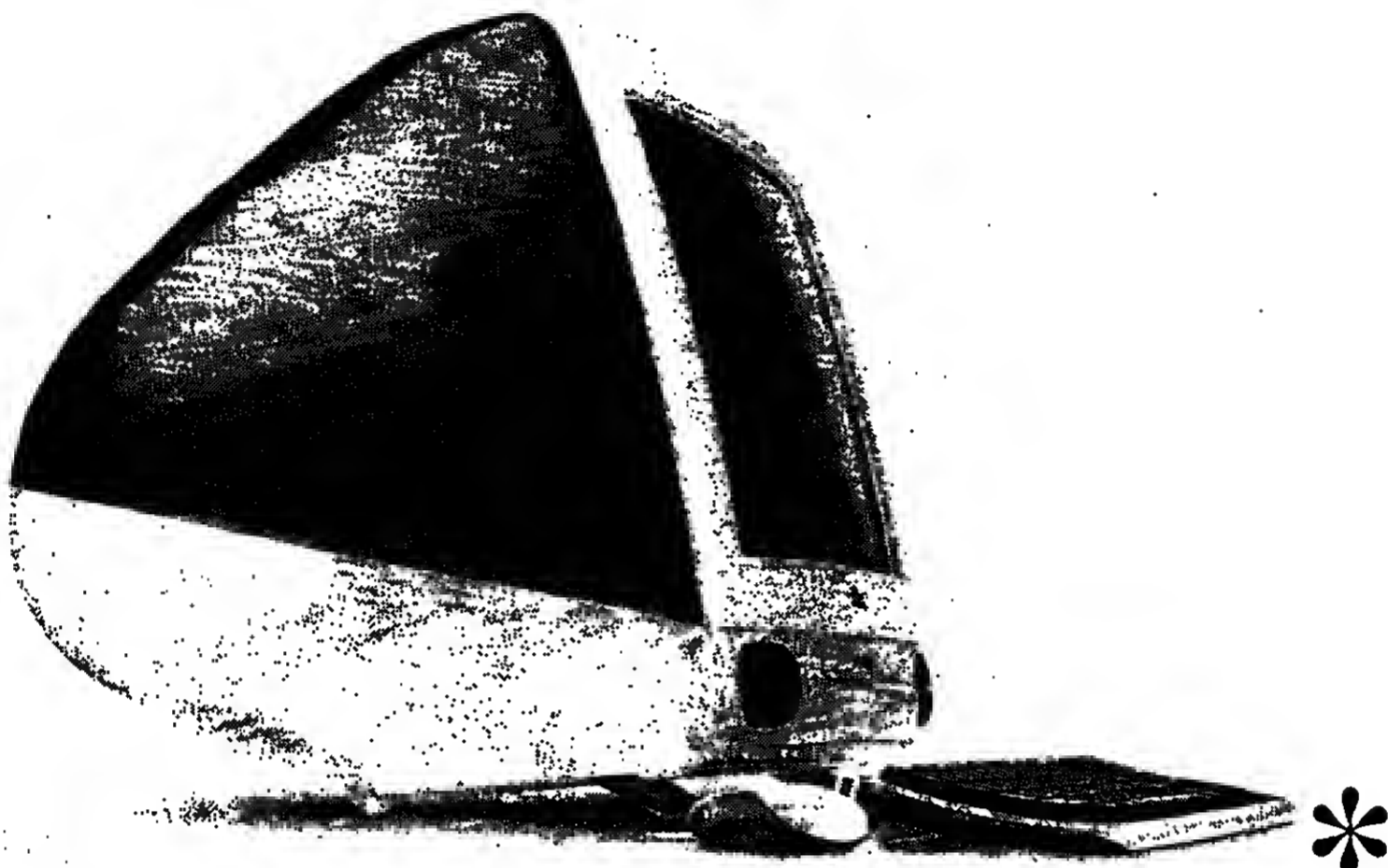
Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday, Mr Faulk was dumped in a field and was rescued after calling police on his mobile phone.

Matthew Forrest, 24, was jailed for 12 years after admitting his part in the kidnap. Philip Huggins, 42, was sentenced to 11 years after admitting false imprisonment. Both also admitted conspiracy to rob and other charges. Huggins's son Daniel, now 16, received a two-year supervision order after admitting his role in the abduction.

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Prince's Trust fined £10,000 for wall deaths

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

THE Prince's Trust was fined £10,000 yesterday after admitting responsibility for the deaths of two volunteers who were killed when a concrete wall collapsed on top of them.

The trust, set up by the Prince of Wales to provide training for young people, pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the safety of Gary Leaburn, 25, and Derek Taylor, 19, on the Orkney island of North Ronaldsay.

The men, from Dundee, were buried beneath five tonnes of concrete when repairing a sea wall. It took seven hours to recover their bodies. The section of wall was said to be well beyond the competency of volunteers.

"It was a tragic end for two promising lads," said Sheriff Colin Scott McKenzie at Kirkwall Sheriff Court. "At the end of the day, it may be thought that The Prince's Trust is where the buck stops. Their penalty will reflect that."

Two other organisations, Adult Community Education (Dundee) and Angus College in Alroath, were fined £5,000 and £2,500 for their involvement. Both pleaded guilty under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Sheriff McKenzie said: "Two lives have been lost and, to reflect that, sums must be high, but I also take into ac-

count the considerable difficulty and effects in penalising what are essentially charities."

Elizabeth Crowther-Hunt, executive director of the Prince's Trust Volunteers, said after the hearing that everyone was deeply upset by the deaths: "It is clear that our health and safety procedures, which had proved adequate over many years, were insufficient on this occasion. We have made our procedures clearer and put in place new measures to do everything we can to prevent anything like this happening again. The health and safety of the young people on our programme is our highest priority."

The 12-week course had been advertised in local newspapers as "fun, free and challenging". Volunteers who formed Team 26 travelled to North Ronaldsay to repair a ten-year-old drystone dyke along 12 miles of the island's coast. The Prince of Wales, who visited the island in 1993, had seen the damage done by storms, and for four years volunteers reinforced the wall.

But when they arrived last summer, the volunteers were told by Billy Muir, the chairman of the community council, that they would be working on a section made from concrete. "Had safety been

high on the agenda, it would have been obvious this project was well outside the competency of this group," said Graeme Napier, the Procurator Fiscal. A health and safety examination after the accident concluded that the collapse was "entirely foreseeable".

The three organisations expressed their sympathies to the victims' families. David Stewart, solicitor for The Prince's Trust, said: "In the tragic circumstances which brings us here, the trust accepts they should have done more to ensure provision for risk assessment training." Mr Stewart said the trust had no idea that the work which led to the accident was being carried out by volunteers.

Since 1976, the trust has provided grants, training and study programmes for more than 150,000 youngsters.



The Duke of York receiving a Fijian warriors' welcome yesterday on the island of Beqa, in the South Pacific. The warriors chanted as they waded out of knee-deep water carrying the Duke, who was protected from the sun by an elaborately covered *vava*, or platform. To mark his visit to Sauvan village during his five-day tour of Fiji, the warriors performed a traditional firewalking ceremony over white-hot rocks, a feat for which they had been preparing for a month. As is customary, the Duke was presented with a whale's tooth, the equivalent of the freedom of the city or village.

Asian boy invited BNP to school

By Dominic Kennedy

THE British National Party, which campaigns to repatriate immigrants, was invited by an Asian pupil to address boys at a public school.

The Master of Dulwich College, Graham Able, has disclosed in a letter published in *The Times* today that "a sixth-former of Asian background" asked the BNP's press officer to speak to pupils on Monday. The school has been exploring the "extremes of British politics", with other speakers coming from the Socialist Workers Party and Anti-Nazi League.

Searchlight, the anti-fascist magazine, condemned the school for inviting a BNP speaker to South London, where the black teenager Stephen Lawrence was murdered. The 18-year-old A-level student was stabbed in 1993 at a bus stop in Eltham, the third such murder in the area in two years. "You only have to look

at what happened in Eltham, where they have pumped out this trash for years, and what it has led to. The last place they should be is near children."

Dulwich College has a high proportion of pupils from ethnic minorities. The latest inspection by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference said: "The mixing of cultures and races and the mutual respect and understanding displayed are particularly impressive features."

Chris Field, the Deputy Master, said he had spoken yesterday to teachers who had taken sixth-formers for lessons immediately after the Monday lunchtime meeting of the Sociology Society. "The boys had realised they were listening to an intelligent man, but who had misguided ideas," he said.

Leading article and Letters, page 23

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Portrait of the artist's house as a lost cause

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

A CHILDHOOD home of James Joyce has been flattened to make way for an apartment block, despite an order to preserve its facade. Fans from around the world had campaigned for two years to save the building, which features in *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Finnegans Wake*.

Dublin Corporation is considering legal action against the developer, who says that the building's dilapidated state was a danger to children. Four fires in the past year have caused extensive damage to the walls and roof.

Joyce was 12 when the family lived at Millbourne Avenue, Drumcondra. The writer had been born into wealth in 1882, but his alcoholic father drank the family fortune. The family had 16 addresses in 20 years, moving each time to evade rent arrears.

Ken Monaghan, the writer's nephew, was "deeply saddened" by the demolition. He said: "It would be ridiculous to think that all the houses Joyce lived in could be preserved as museums or mementoes, but it would have been nice to preserve Millbourne, because it really captures the descent from the good days to the bad days." Dublin Corporation,

the city-centre council, last year gave developers the right to build apartments provided they maintained the exterior of the two-storey house built in 1890. It was razed on Sunday.

In *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, Joyce's most intensely autobiographical work, the Millbourne scene has Stephen Dedalus, the novel's main character, returning from a day at university to find his brothers and sisters sitting in penury around the kitchen table.

Dedalus "pushed open the latched door of the porch and passed through the naked hallway to the kitchen. A group of his brothers and sisters

were sitting around the table. Tea was nearly over and only the last of the second watered tea remained in the bottom of the small glass jars and jam-pots which did service for tea-cups".

Mrs Joyce gave birth to her 11th child in Millbourne Avenue, although the infant died shortly after birth. Joyce referred to the house in *Finnegans Wake* as "2 Millbrook. Wrongly spelled. Traumcondraws".

Patrick O'Rourke, the developer, said that he was unaware that Joyce had lived in the house. He said he thought the most famous owner had been an archbishop.

Millbourne is the second of Joyce's former homes to be demolished. Vivien Igoe, author of *James Joyce's Dublin Houses*, fears that developers will now raze 15 Usher's Island, another of the houses and the setting for the powerful short story *The Dead*. The house is run-down and its windows are blocked up by corrugated iron.

"It is such a pity to see this happening when our economy is booming," she said. "We only need to preserve the buildings and put up a plaque to remind people about Joyce. But we don't seem to be able to manage even that."



Joyce's family had 16 homes in 20 years



Before: the childhood home where the 12-year-old Joyce experienced poverty that he never forgot



Now: the building has been flattened despite a two-year campaign. The developer says it was dangerous

Soldiers on exercise poisoned by fumes

By Simon de Brunelles

SOLDIERS had to be treated in hospital yesterday after being overcome by exhaust fumes during an exercise.

The 77 men from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were working in a disused hanger at Hullavington RAF base in Wiltshire when they were taken ill with carbon monoxide poisoning. After tests, 58 were detained and the rest discharged.

The soldiers were taking part in a four-week exercise designed to test their abilities to service and repair military helicopters in adverse conditions. Health and safety experts were last night examining a generator thought to have been the source of the fumes.

The alarm was raised at 10pm on Monday night when one of the soldiers had difficulty waking up from an off-duty break. Several others also complained of feeling ill.

An army spokesman said: "When they deploy on operations such as this, they have to work in difficult conditions without electricity and so on, such as they might find in places like Bosnia.

"They use small mobile generators to power their tools and equipment. These generators have a flexible exhaust tube, which is fed through a gap in a door or window. "This is supposed to take all the exhaust fumes out. How it came to be that exhaust fumes were in the building is what we are now investigating."

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Relief road protesters dig in for long fight

By Adam Fresco

AS LIGHT broke over their camp yesterday, protesters against the building of the Birmingham northern relief road woke to the voice of the Under-Sheriff of Staffordshire ringing in their ears.

With his feet planted firmly in the muddy field and a megaphone in his hand, John James, supported by a group of men he had sworn in as sheriffs, was there to warn the protesters that their time was up. His job was to get them out and get the road built.

He told them that they were now officially trespassing and faced arrest: anyone who refused to leave the site off the A38 at Weeford, Staffordshire, would be made to do so. The demonstrators, who had barricaded themselves inside a labyrinth of tunnels on the proposed route, bolted their hatchets and went to their positions.

As they did so, Mr James, a 56-year-old solicitor, set up camp in the next field, bringing in the heavy equipment he would need to get the protesters out and the building of Britain's first private toll motorway off the ground.

Muppet Dave, a veteran of several road protests, said the bailiffs faced obstacles never previously employed by road protesters. They are believed to have dug a network of tunnels that lead to a separate bunker, 20ft deep and 15ft square, constructed with reinforced concrete threaded with steel and are said to have food and water to last a month.

Mr James said the physical eviction would not begin until secure compounds had been built. "I am pleased to be able to say that the commencement of the eviction process has begun satisfactorily."

Stabbed social worker turned down new post

By Adrian Lee and Claudia Joseph

A SOCIAL worker fatally stabbed at a hostel for psychiatric patients had declined promotion to management because she wanted to be on the front line of the care system.

Jenny Morrison, 51, a former typist who had risen to become one of Wandsworth council's most experienced social workers, specialised in working with the mentally ill. Ms Morrison, a single parent and a grandmother, was stabbed eight times in the stomach during a routine visit to a council hostel in Balham, southwest London, on Monday.

Although Ms Morrison had not received any self-defence training, colleagues said she was capable of looking after herself.

"She had a very good sense of judgment," Ms Dobson said. "She would not have placed herself in danger."

Ms Morrison lived alone, in Wimbledon, but had a long-term partner who teaches at an American airforce base. Her daughter, Tanya, 29, who lives in Essex, said: "She died doing the job she loved."

The dead woman's sister, Sandra Foster, 53, said: "She came out of school with no qualifications and worked hard - morning, noon and night. She fought for people."

The hostel is a halfway house for people with mental health problems, but not severe psychiatric disorders. Yesterday it was closed.

Ms Morrison's death reopened the debate over care in the community. Michael Howlen, director of the Zito Trust, said: "The severity of the attack raises questions about why such patients are put in these hostels without stronger supervision."

Hairy mice point way ahead to baldness cure

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A MOLECULE that makes skin cells sprout hair could be the long-awaited cure for baldness. It has already cured a superhairy breed of mice. One day it may restore hair to millions of men for whom every day is a no-hair day.

Normally, hair follicles are produced only in the womb. Once they die, they cannot be replaced. Now scientists at the University of Chicago report in *Cell* that they have identified a molecule, beta-catenin, that instructs adult cells to revert to an embryonic-like state and become hair follicles.

"This is exciting because current treatments for baldness work only if there are living follicles left, or if the patient undergoes hair transplant surgery," says Elaine Fuchs, who led the experiments. "Our research shows that new follicles can be created from adult skin cells if certain molecular players are induced to act."

The experiments involved introducing a gene into mice that made them produce a constant supply of beta-catenin in their skin. This process caused some skin cells to produce a second molecule, called LEF-1, which joined with the beta-catenin to turn skin cells into follicles. The mice were indeed exceptionally hairy, but there was a snag. The proliferation of follicles led to benign tumours forming. "This is a case of too much of a good thing leading to a bad thing," says Professor Fuchs. "More work needs to be done to achieve hair growth without potentially dangerous side effects, such as cancer. One way might be to express beta-catenin in skin cells only up to a certain point and turn it off once enough follicles have formed. With luck, this would ensure an adequate supply of new hair while preventing tumour formation. The findings could also have a upside, she says. It could be used to halt unwanted hair growth, or to engineer sheep with denser fleeces."

THE TIMES

45mph on th

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By Helen...

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45mph cyclist caught on the tail of lorry

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A CYCLIST caught doing 45mph just a foot from the rear of a lorry was fined yesterday for riding without due care and attention.

Peter Archer, 36, a racing enthusiast who pedals 18 miles a day to and from work, admitted the charge, but said that he was doing only 37mph. "I may be fit, but I'm not the bionic man," he said after the case.

In October 1997 police stopped a housewife on her bicycle, riding at 43mph through a radar trap. Ros Jones, 43, of Carmarthenshire, had been advised to take up gentle cycling by her swimming instructor.

Archer said that a computer on his bicycle told him that 37mph was his maximum speed when the offence occurred on July 7. He said that he was at least 6ft behind the lorry on the A141 in March, Cambridgeshire. He was fined £35.

Police estimated, by judging his speed against their speedometer, that he was doing 45mph on his mountain bike

in the slipstream of a lorry on the rural road, which had a 60mph limit.

Fenland magistrates were told that Archer ignored police signals to pull over. He said he thought that the officers were signalling to the lorry driver.

The father of two, from March, condemned the decision to prosecute him as petty. "I couldn't reach 45mph unless I was very, very fit and had a much better bike. If the police thought I was riding

badly, surely a warning would have been enough. At least five times a week I see people doing silly things in cars.

"Taking me to court is extremely petty. I am sure there are real criminals who are laughing at this because it took the spotlight off them."

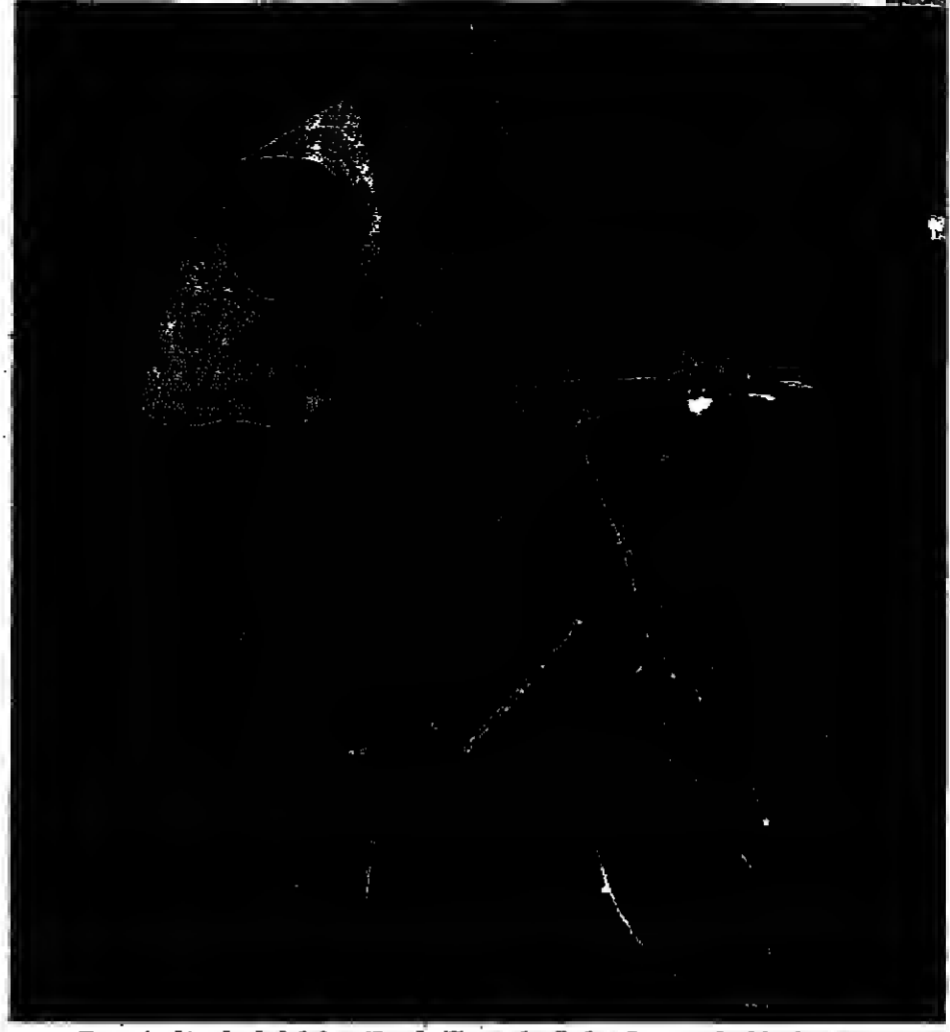
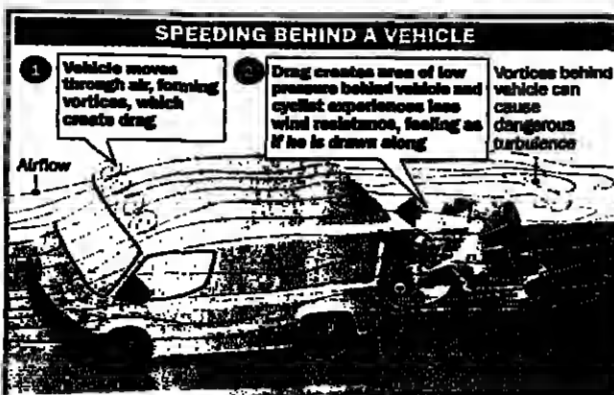
PC Vic Smith, Cambridgeshire police's Casualty Reduction Officer, declined to comment on the case but said that riding without due care and attention was a charge occasion-

ally levelled at cyclists. In June 1997 the Government announced a clampdown on bad cycling, saying that cyclists who rode without due care and attention would face fines of up to £1,000.

Cyclists call it "drafting" — the trick of slotting in behind another cyclist in a race and getting a pull. It works even better with a truck, if you are foolhardy enough to try it (Nigel Hawkes writes).

"A rider is very unsteady," said John Bradshaw, a mathematician and cycle enthusiast from Lancaster University. "It's all those bits sticking out that do it." This means that the top speed that can be reached by an ordinary cyclist, even downhill, is 45mph, but far higher speeds are possible behind a large vehicle.

The record is 166.9mph, set at Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in 1995 by Fred Rompelberg, of Holland. He rode behind a large windshield, tucking in to the region of low pressure immediately behind so that he was dragged along.



Peter Archer denied doing 45mph: "I may be fit, but I'm not the bionic man"

Prisoner on hunger strike for 50 days

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PRISONER entered his 50th day of a hunger strike yesterday in protest at government policy on vivisection.

Barry Horne, an animal rights extremist jailed for a bombing campaign, received final rites in a pagan ceremony in the prison hospital on Sunday. Doctors at Full Sutton are preparing to transfer him to intensive care in hospital in York if his condition becomes worse. Friends say he now cannot leave his bed and is close to unconsciousness.

Horne, 46, has stipulated that he should not be put on life-support, should he become unaware of what is going on.

The Animals Betrayed Coalition said that he had offered to end his strike if a date was set for a royal commission on animal experiments, and that Labour had promised this before the election.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Disabled boy wins £3m claim

A 12-year-old boy severely brain damaged at birth was awarded £3.25 million damages at the High Court in London yesterday.

David Reynolds needs full-time care because of cerebral palsy. He was born at Poole General Hospital, Dorset, in May 1986 in a forceps delivery. He did not breathe for 18 minutes. East Dorset Health Authority also agreed to pay legal costs and £27,500 compensation to Susan Reynolds, 44, for internal injuries suffered during the delivery.

Funfair rescue

Funfair revellers on a "white-knuckle" ride were stuck in mid-air — some upside down — for 45 minutes before rescue by ladder in a suspected hydraulic failure at Aberystwyth. Seven were treated for shock and bruised muscles.

Hedgehog abuse

A man was fined £75 for playing football with a hedgehog. Neil Woodyatt, 20, of Waunfwd, South Wales, was charged with causing unnecessary suffering to a wild mammal after police saw him kicking it. The hedgehog was unhurt.

Hot on the trail

Detectives found 212 stolen antique fireplaces worth about £500,000 in two raids in Luton and Ampthill, Bedfordshire. One fireplace made from Italian marble is alone worth £10,000. Possible owners were urged to contact Luton police.

Reliant stung

Police laid spiked metal "stinger" strips around an industrial estate in Fleetwood, Lancashire, to puncture the tyres of a runaway Reliant Robin. Its driver had eluded bigger police cars by driving through a small hole in a fence.

Jet's crew lose dog, but gain a hamster

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A FLIGHT from London to Melbourne proved to be fraught with difficulty for a pet owner who lost her dog, and a for hamster that lost its owner. Airline staff admitted defeat yesterday in their efforts to reunite them all.

The first to go absent without leave was a bull mastiff, which broke free from its cage to go walkabout in the cargo hold of the Boeing 747. The dog is thought to have left the British Airways plane on its own without being noticed during a stopover at Bangkok.

The dog's Australian owner disembarked in Sydney only to be told that her pet was missing. Staff searched the cargo hold and the huge airport to no avail.

"We have no idea how he got away, but he is definitely nowhere to be found," said a spokeswoman. "We think he must have nipped off on transfer at Bangkok."

"We are very sorry for this. We carry more than 1,000 dogs a year without any problem, but we simply can't find this one."

The owner, who lives in Sydney, has been offered two free tickets to Bangkok as compensation for her loss last Saturday.

The hamster was an unofficial traveller and was spotted scampering down the aisle on the Bangkok to Sydney leg. It is believed to have fled from hand baggage in the passenger cabin.

Once cornered, it was looked after by airline staff but no owner has admitted responsibility for breaking international aviation law by taking the pet on board without reporting to the authorities.

"We are still waiting for someone to come forward, but we will have to let animal welfare officers look after it if no one accepts responsibility," said the spokeswoman.

Shot man 'broke into own home'

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A POLICE marksman shot dead a man who had locked himself out of his home after his girlfriend reported an armed burglary in progress, an inquest was told yesterday.

Michael Fitzgerald, 32, was mistaken for a burglar after his girlfriend, Melanie Jay, reported seeing legs disappear through the kitchen window and did not recognise him. It later emerged that Mr Fitzgerald, an unemployed railway worker, had left his house keys in a jacket in a pub.

Police evacuated people from their homes after being told that the man had also been seen with a gun. Marksmen surrounding Mr Fitzgerald's home in Bedford in February saw him lean out of a window, brandishing a gun.

The inquest was told that officers had spent 90 minutes trying to talk to Mr Fitzgerald on the telephone. But, when he leant from the window and pointed the gun, one policeman had fired. Mr Fitzgerald's weapon, which turned

out to be a replica Colt 45 pistol, led to the first fatal shooting involving Bedfordshire Police since its officers were armed 13 years ago. A post-mortem examination showed that he died from a single shot.

The dead man's sister, Mary, said: "Somebody could have contacted a member of the family. Nobody knew what had happened. The operation went too fast."

The jury at the Bedford inquest was told that the officer who had fired the shot had been taken off firearms duty, but had not been suspended.

Detective Superintendent Trevor Davies, of Thames Valley Police, who was appointed by the Police Complaints Authority, said that he had found no basis for criminal liability in the actions of any individual officer. The case was also referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, which decided that there was no justification for criminal proceedings.

The inquest, which is expected to last four days, continues.



Surprisingly ordinary prices



HIV cases rise as the young spurn condoms

Pop star joins safe sex crusade, writes Helen Rumbelow

CONDOMS should be as available as Coca-Cola to defeat the continuing rise of HIV among young people who ignore safe sex rules, the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, said yesterday as it was revealed that 10,000 Britons under 25 are carrying the virus.

"If Coca-Cola can manage to be available everywhere, then so can condoms," Ms Short said on the release of a UN report which showed that there were nearly six million new cases worldwide last year.

Teenagers and those in their early twenties are the most at risk. In Britain, the under-25s make up half of the total number of infections, which have been steadily increasing to more than 2,500 new cases a year.

The promise of a cure, or at least the effectiveness of new drug treatments, may be making young people less afraid of the disease, said the report on the Aids epidemic. Powerful and expensive combination therapies reduced deaths from Aids by more than a quarter in Britain last year.

The projected figures for

this year are even lower, 250 deaths, falling from 381 in 1997, 500 in 1996 and 1,276 in 1992. ACET, a leading British Aids charity, said. In America deaths have dropped by two thirds since the arrival of the new drugs in the past two years.

However, infection rates in Britain are nearly double that of 1989, when awareness of the disease was at its peak. That year 1,500 people caught the virus.

Ms Short, launching the report in London in advance of World Aids Day on Tuesday, said that it was more important than ever that the danger of Aids was made clear. "There's a horrible sense of complacency in the West, that it's all peaked and under control. It's not, it's a disaster."

The pattern in Britain is repeated across the globe, with three million young people catching the disease this year — more than five every minute.

The first move to making condoms more available is the appointment of William Roedy, the executive director of MTV, the pop music chan-

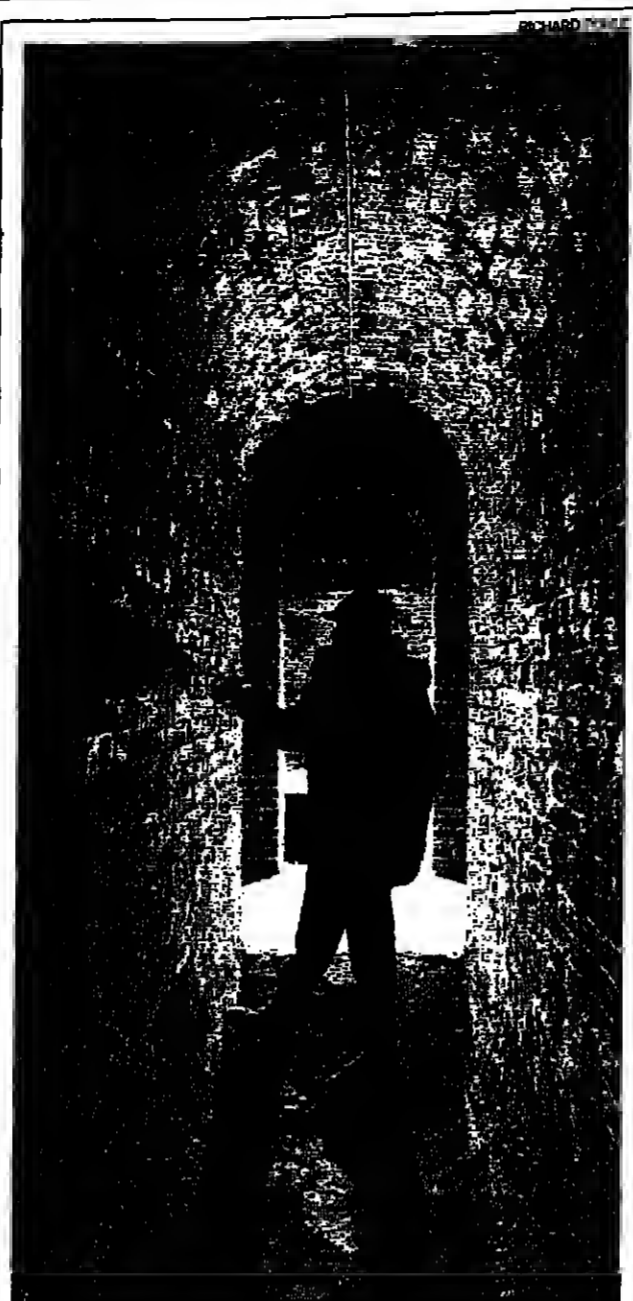
nel, as this year's ambassador to the UNAids programme. His first venture on their behalf will be a half-hour documentary on Aids that will be presented on World Aids Day by George Michael.

The show is the first time a programme other than awards ceremonies have been shown on MTV's 17 local channels across the world.

It opens with Michael against swirls of pink latex and dance music, saying: "I know you don't get to see me on camera very often, but now it's time to listen to what I have to say." His words will be translated into seven languages, with the message that "condoms are cool, using them is cool, hip and trendy," said Mr Roedy.

Peter Piot, executive director of UNAids, said that, in the few countries of the world that had managed to reverse rates of Aids infections, such as Uganda, Thailand and Tanzania, condom use was crucial.

The female condom had been a surprising success, he said, as women in Africa were keen to be put in charge of their own protection.



"Creative centre" will be based in the brick undercroft

Toymaker brings fun back to Roundhouse

By Marcus Binney

ONE of Britain's most successful toymakers is to transform the Roundhouse in Camden into a creative centre for young people.

Torquill Norman, a former chairman of Bluebird Toys, bought the former railway engine shed in North London for £3 million in 1996. He plans to revive the interior, which staged such controversial productions as *Oh! Calcutta!* in the 1960s, as a performance space, with up to 1,200 theatre seats and standing room for 2,700 at pop concerts. "We can have the whole range of music and theatre that made the Roundhouse famous under Arnold Wesker, as well as circus and even dodgem cars," he said.

Below the building he has discovered a huge brick vaulted undercroft that will become the new creative centre. He is convinced that it will deliver the Government's goals of cultural diversity, wider access and less social exclusion in the arts. He said: "A kid without qualifications or training can come here and cut a disc, make a tape or a video or become involved with the theatre production."

Recently Mr Norman's trust held a music workshop with 100 children, who worked for five days to put a concert on stage with the rock group Stomp. Mr Norman has enlisted five main

associates to help to run the new centre: YCTV, which uses 13 to 18-year-olds to make television programmes; Raw Material, a video and film agency offering training to the young; the London College of Fashion; and the Rockshop, which combines children and professional musicians in bands.

The Roundhouse was built in 1846 to the design of Robert Stephenson, the railway engineer. But after 12 years it was taken over by Gilbey's Gin as a bonded warehouse. It was adopted as an arts centre by Wesker in 1964 and also served as a launchpad for rock acts such as Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones, the

Doors and Jimi Hendrix. It closed in 1983.

Plans by the architect John McAslan include a new glass staircase tower and an all-glass restaurant on the north side. With the engineer Tony Hunt, who worked on the Eurostar terminus at Waterloo, Mr McAslan has designed a "coolie hat" roof laid over the existing structure.

If Mr Norman's applications for £12.5 million grant from the Arts Council and £4.5 million grant from Heritage Lottery Fund are successful, he hopes to start work late in 2000 and reopen in 2002. He has already committed £6.2 million from his own trust.



Torquill Norman lifts the "coolie hat" lid on the plans

Pupils may be shown real crash footage

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

A POLICE force will decide today whether teenagers should be shown graphic video footage of road accidents in an attempt to shock them into driving safely.

Officers attending a meeting of Northern Constabulary's police board in Inverness will see mangled bodies being cut from wreckage and placed in body bags, before giving approval for the footage to be shown to sixth-year pupils throughout the Highlands.

The force, which has the worst road accident record in Scotland, is the first in Britain to consider showing 17 and 18-year-olds the aftermath of an accident. The video being considered includes a clip in which a camera pans over the crumpled remains of a family car. From the contorted limbs and the blood-filled mouth, it is clear that the driver is dead. Relatives of the victims, who gave their permission for the footage to be shown, include Reg and Cathy Turner from Alness, in Easter Ross, whose sons, Greg, 18, and Russell, 24, died in separate car crashes within three years on the same stretch of road.

A police spokeswoman said: "Children nowadays are very sophisticated. Other forces use actors but you cannot fool teenagers. If people are prepared to pay money to see *Saving Private Ryan*, which includes images of soldiers being blown apart, they can cope with seeing footage of dead people."

Acid fall worker saved by colleagues

By a Correspondent

A WORKER who fell into a pool of sulphuric acid solution was saved from serious injury by colleagues who showered him with chemicals.

Kevin Beynon, 29, tumbled into a 3ft-deep pool of the corrosive liquid while working at an anodising plant yesterday.

He swallowed some of the corrosive fluid and inhaled fumes, but serious burns were avoided by his quick-thinking workmates, who went to his aid after he scrambled from the vat. Mike Walden, managing director of Anocool, in Milton Keynes, said: "Thankfully, the workers on duty followed our safety guidelines."

Firefighters doused Mr Beynon with water before ambulance crews tended his burnt skin. Stan Jones, an assistant divisional fire officer, said: "We hosed the man down. It was important to make sure that he was decontaminated."

An ambulance spokesman said: "When we arrived he was having breathing problems and had burns to his eyes and nose."

Mr Walden said: "We are investigating what led to the accident." He did not know from what height Mr Beynon had fallen.

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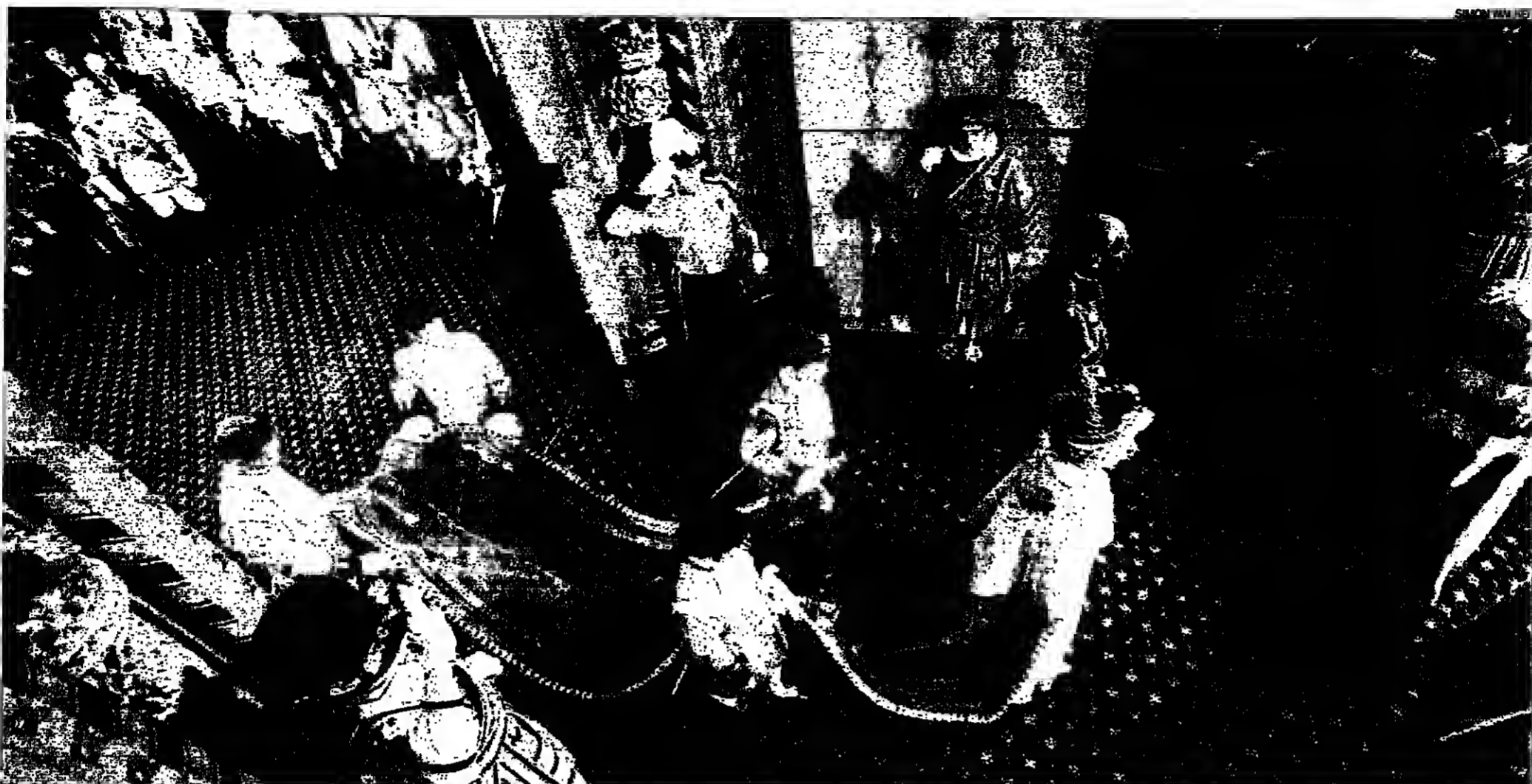
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Peter Riddell, PA PROPOSALS, PAGE 11

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THE QUEEN'S SPEECH



The Queen with the Duke of Edinburgh at the State Opening of Parliament yesterday. Labour MPs shouted "Hear, hear" as she announced a Bill abolishing the rights of hereditary peers

A SUMMARY OF THE BILLS

- Bill to scrap NHS internal market...
- Bill to modernise Youth Courts and give greater protection to vulnerable witnesses.
- Bill to modernise legal aid.
- Bill to overhaul social security system, including reform of disability benefits, split of pensions on divorce, introduction of second-tier stakeholder pensions.
- Bill to bring in the Working Families Tax Credit and Disabled Persons Tax Credit.
- Legislation to establish Disability Rights Commission.
- Measures to establish "fairness at work".
- Bill to merge Contributions Agency and Inland Revenue.
- Legislation to modernise local government in England and Wales.
- Legislation to establish directly-elected mayor for London and separate elected assembly.
- Establishment of Regional Development Agencies.
- Bill to remove right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in House of Lords.
- Legislation to provide fair basis for water charges.
- Legislation to improve regulation of financial services by Financial Services Authority.
- Bill to reduce age of consent for homosexuals to 16 in England, Wales and Scotland and 17 in Northern Ireland.
- Bill to modernise immigration and asylum laws.
- Bill to convert Commonwealth Development Corporation into public-private partnership.
- Reintroduction of Bill to bring in proportional representation for European parliamentary elections.
- Measure for Government to recoup from insurance companies cost to NHS of treating traffic accident victims.
- Draft proposals on a Freedom of Information Act and reform of party funding.

Truly, madly, democratic Lords have no peers

It was an historic day in the House of Lords. It only needed Mick Jagger to gyrate down the chamber singing "This could be the last time". Which would not have seemed odd, since this State Opening was remarkable for its atmosphere of Mick-and-Jerry-style glamour, as well as its unaccustomed noise.



Valerie Grove is amused by an atmosphere of pop-star glamour nearly 30 years after she attended her last State Opening

The din was the rumble of "Hear, hear" that erupted from Labour MPs when the Queen came to the bit about ending hereditary peerages. The royal voice was fearless as it uttered these radical sentiments, and the "Hear, hear" was clearly audible. Interrupting Her Majesty! Nobody had ever heard of such a thing. Stunned, Bateman cartoon faces turned to glare towards the miscreants: the Labour MPs who had just been led in by Black Rod to assume their traditional huddle at the end of the chamber. "New Labour, No Manners", harrumphed Baroness Strange as she swept monumentally out of the central lobby afterwards.

Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare emerged with several new wrinkles, etched by rage. "I am absolutely disgusted," he huffed. "Next to me sat my friend Robert Ferrers (the 13th Earl) who told me he had never in 44 years in the House heard anything so disgraceful as interrupting the Queen's Speech." But Lord Archer would be all in favour of wresting the earldom from his friend's heirs, however. Hadn't he begged Michael Howard to get in quick and reform the Lords before Labour did? Mr Howard said there was neither one nor inclination. But Lord Archer's reform would have been painless: ex-

isting hereditary peers would continue to sit until they dropped dead. "We'd be rid of most of them in about ten years," he beamed. "Simple!"

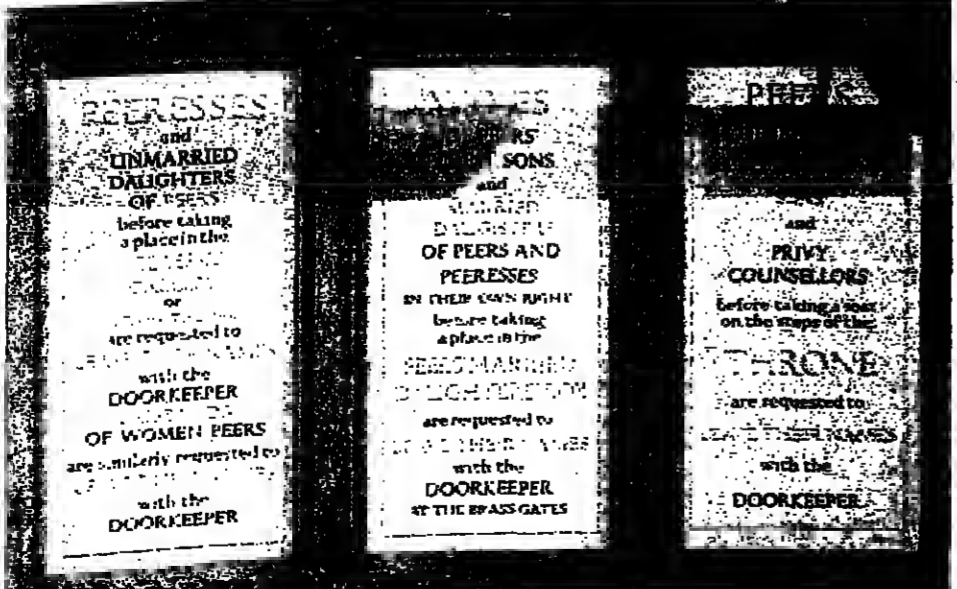
It is nearly 30 years since I last attended this amusing occasion, a galling reminder of how many of my contemporaries and even juniors are now ennobled, sometimes on mystifying pretexts. But for the most part it is *déjà vu* all round: the nursery rhyme thrones, the flunkies and flummery, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, Alice in Wonderland stuff. The sheer absurdity of dressing up in tiaras and long evening gowns on a dark, wet November day. The long-suffering hubbub as the ermined ones wait for the procession of playing-card figures. The way the Duke of Edinburgh arranges his princely limbs in the perfect consort's pose. The delicious mis-matches of placements, everyone so huggemugger they sit squeezed with people they'd never dream of having to dinner, but find they quite like chatting to after all.

Josephine Hart, the novelist, whose husband is Lord Saatchi, in plunging black velvet and an Edwardian diamond-and-pearl collar, made best friends with Marianna, wife of Lord Falconer of Thornton, Mr Blair's Cabinet fixer. Lord Bragg found himself bunched up with the elegant Gita Feldman, wife of Baron Feldman, Tory party stalwart.

The presence of a film star had everyone craning at Jamie Lee Curtis, demure and slender in understated dignity with her short, severe haircut and simple gold laurel wreath, among the ambassadors' wives and tiara'd perresses. But nobody could identify her husband, Christopher, the 5th Baron Haden-Guest, though the rumour spread that he had appeared as a boy in *The Go Between*. But for sheer glamour Pauline Prescott, up in the gallery with Cherie, outshone the jewelled ladies below in a stunning, scarlet Ascot hat the size of a bucket.

There were other harrumphing matters: poor Lord Irvine of Lairg's failure to back away from the Queen (he turned his back on her instead). But at least he was still in the stockings he finds so tiresome, while Margaret Beckett opted daringly for the trouser suit, another break with tradition.

This may indeed have been the very last State Opening of its kind. Which might partly account for the Gioconda smile worn by Baroness Jay of Paddington. But if it is, I think we shall miss the hilarious incongruity of the Lords as we know it — scions of ancient families cheek by jowl with jumped-up street traders (did you ever see anyone more like a barrow boy than Lord Harlech?), which is, after all, more truly and madly democratic than a meritocracy.



Protocol and tradition: plaques informing peers and their relatives on how they should deport themselves when attending the Upper Chamber

PETER RIDDELL, PAGE 10; LORDS REFORM PROPOSALS, PAGE 11; TEXT OF SPEECH PAGE 12

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Benefits must be 'deserved'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

WELFARE REFORM

A PROFOUND cultural shift in people's attitudes towards welfare is the aim of the Welfare Reform Bill. It will emphasise self-help and forcing people to prove that they "deserve" their state benefits.

The key will be the creation of a "single gateway" to the benefits system, which will require all claimants of working age to attend a mandatory interview with a personal adviser as a condition of receiving welfare. Only those obviously too disabled or ill to work will be exempt. In the same vein, the "all work test", which currently determines entitlement to disability benefits, will be replaced with an "employability test". The idea is to shift the focus from finding out what work people cannot do to what they can do.

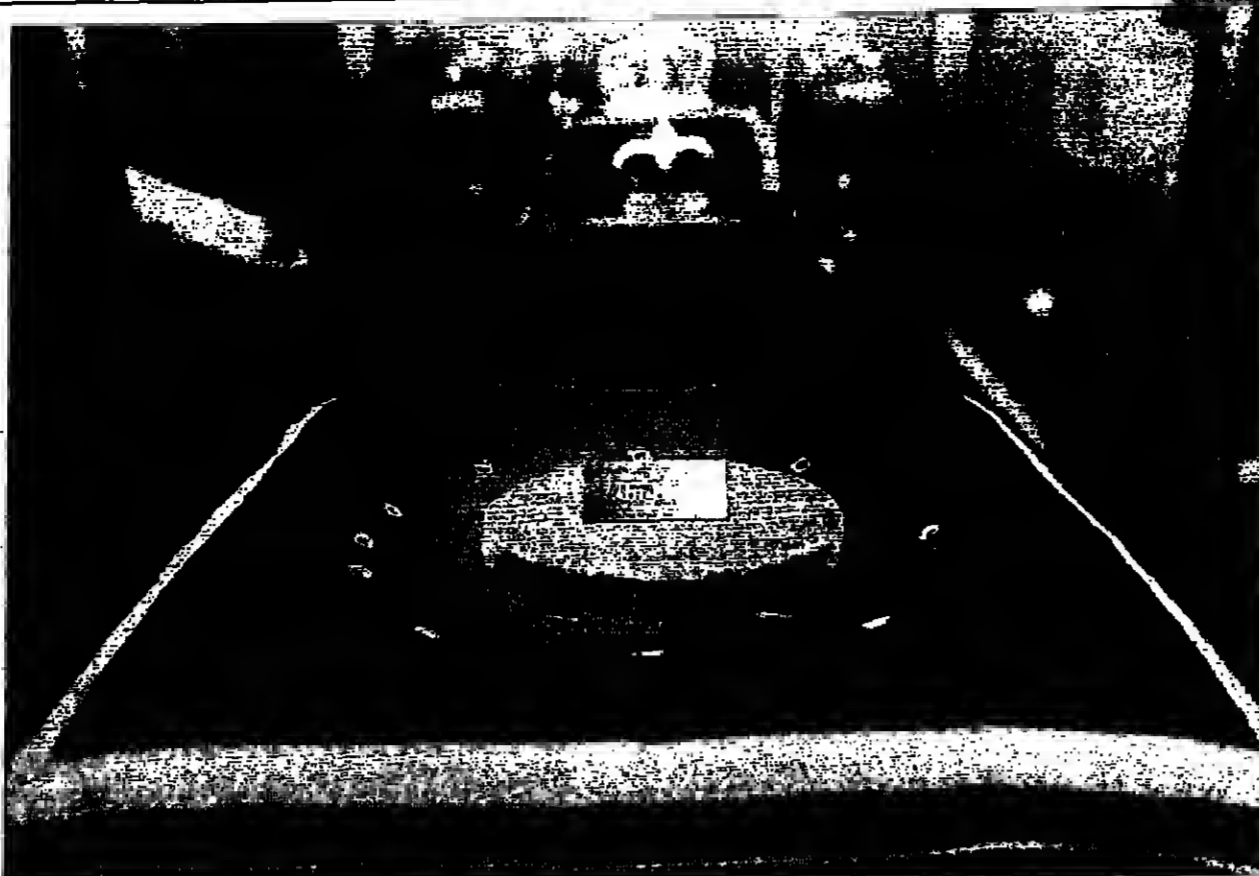
The Bill will also contain provisions for a Disability Rights Commission, which will have similar powers to the Commission for Racial Equality and the Equal Opportunities Commission to back legal action supporting the rights of people with disabilities.

There will be more help for those disabled at birth or at a very early age, severely disabled children and those who

need round-the-clock care. The criteria for claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB), for those too sick to work, will be tightened. Under what may turn out to be the Bill's most contentious measure, people who have not paid National Insurance contributions in the past two years will no longer be eligible for IB unless they have been caring for a dependent relative and receiving invalid care allowance.

While welcoming the creation of a Disability Rights Commission, disability campaigners expressed deep reservations about the new IB rules. Lord Ashley of Stoke, co-chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Disability Group, accused the Government of breaking its moral obligation to National Insurance contributors. "This will mean that someone who has paid National Insurance for 20 years but unemployed for more than a year will be ineligible for IB if they become disabled."

The Bill confirmed for the first time that self-employed people and workers with no company pension will be encouraged to take out "stakeholder" retirement plans to top up their state pensions. There will also be new provisions on pension-sharing on divorce.



Situation vacant: the case of the Imperial State Crown, which the Queen wore yesterday, at the Tower of London

NHS market will be abolished

BY MARK HENDERSON

HEALTH

THE NHS internal market and GP fundholding are to be abolished in the modernisation of the health service.

A Health Bill will sweep away the previous Government's most controversial changes and replace GP fundholders with primary care groups, which can commission services. The Bill also provides for the setting up of primary care trusts, made up of GPs and community nurses, who can provide services. The

Government aims to end the competition inspired by the internal market, which it says pitted hospitals, doctors and nurses against one another in the fight for funds. GP fundholding, which ministers say has created a two-tier system under which fundholders can secure swifter, better treatment for patients, will also go.

There will be an independent body, the Commission for Health Improvement, already

nicknamed "Chimp", with strong powers to audit hospitals and send "hit squads" to run those it deems to be failing. It will "name and shame" doctors who fall below set standards, and start disciplinary procedures where necessary.

Professional self-regulation will be tightened, with all parts of the NHS given a statutory duty to provide high-quality care. Ministers hope the measures will restore public confidence in doctors, hit by a number of recent cases.

A separate Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Bill will make it easier for hospitals to reclaim the cost of treating accident victims from insurers. Private hospitals reclaim such costs as a matter of course, but the NHS has been fettered by bureaucracy.

A new unit will seek up to £10,000 per patient from insurers, saving a potential £300 million a year for the NHS. Average premiums are likely to rise by about £10 as a result.

Ann Widdecombe, Shadow Health Secretary, said the new primary care groups would "turn doctors into pen-pushers" with no benefit for patients. "GPs will lose the autonomy to improve patient care... Rationing and regulation are being introduced through Labour's new quangos and the whole system is being bureaucratized from top to bottom."

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, which represents trusts and health authorities, said: "It is a huge agenda which is supported by NHS organisations but will require a cultural revolution... It will take a number of years to get right."

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, a lay member of the General Medical Council, feared the effect of the changes on doctors: "This name and shame culture will demoralise doctors without improving things for patients."

Car charges to raise billions for London

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TRANSPORT

NEW laws allowing motoring charges to be imposed in London will enable the capital's elected mayor to raise up to £1 billion a year.

Legislation to create the new mayoral post and the Greater London Authority will also include powers to charge companies for staff parking spaces. Details of the charges will be left to the new bodies to decide, and the authority will be allowed to keep most of the proceeds to improve transport in the city.

The legislation for London is expected to be followed by legislation for further motoring charges across the country. Ministers have asked local authorities to volunteer for trial projects to test the practicality of charging motorists.

Research by the Chartered Institute of Transport suggested that £600million could be raised annually through road charges across greater London. A further £400 million a

year could be raised by imposing charges of up to £1,000 on each workplace parking space. Resulting improvements in traffic flow could save businesses up to £400 million annually.

A standard motoring charge of £400 a year for those living in Central London has been proposed to ministers, giving car owners a "travel card" that could be used for cars or public transport in a tightly defined area. Transport advisers are split over whether to recommend a simple system of paper permits, displayed in car windcreens, or a more sophisticated and expensive electronic tagging scheme under which roadside cameras would "charge" in-car smartcards.

The latter system, which could cost more than £200 million to set up, would operate either through a cordon system, in which drivers are charged as they pass a particular point, or on a continuous charging scheme based on miles driven.

Mayor to control eight areas of life

BY ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON

THE first directly elected mayor of London will preside over a 25-member assembly and hold sway over eight broad areas of life in the capital.

He or she will also appear at a monthly question time that, depending on the incumbent, could provide a rival attraction to Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons.

The Greater London Authority Bill will create one of the most powerful political posts outside the Cabinet. The mayor will have direct command over a new body, Transport for London, which will be responsible for co-ordinating the Tube, roads, taxis and river travel as well as influencing the running of commuter

trains. A 23-member Police Authority for London will report to the mayor, rather than the Home Secretary, as will a 17-strong fire and civil emergency authority.

The mayor will be expected to draw up strategies for planning and attracting investment to the capital, and will have responsibility for culture and the arts, public health and the environment.

The mayoral office, together with the authority and assembly, will be funded largely by a grant from central Government. The mayor will have the power to raise extra money through London council taxes, although limited by Westminster.

Council 'hit squads'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

TOWN HALLS

MINISTERS will have new powers to send in "hit squads" to deal with failing councils under the Local Government (Best Value and Capping) Bill.

New "external audit and inspection" systems will be set up. The Bill will also scrap compulsory competitive tendering (CCT), under which councils must put out to tender the provision of services such as refuse collection. CCT will be replaced with a "best value"

system, requiring councils to review services every five years, to set performance targets and to publish achievements in the local press.

Ministers will retain powers to limit excessive council tax increases, but will be able to take local circumstances into account. Councils which overspend will be allowed to reduce their budgets over a number of years. Plans for directly elected mayors in England have been delayed.

Fog of war obscures Lords battlefield

THE House of Lords will never be properly reformed until the party leaders start thinking seriously, rather than merely exchanging vacuous slogans.

William Hague yesterday championed "our independent second chamber", while the Prime Minister attacked the permanent dominance of the Lords by Conservative hereditary peers. Both claims are misleading and ignore the main question — the powers of the House of Lords in relation to the Commons.

Of course, the Lords are not really independent at present. The Upper House was at times a nuisance to the Thatcher Governments. But apart from a few human rights and constitutional issues, this opposition had no impact on the main Thatcherite programmes, such as privatisation and trade union reform. The Lords has an in-built Tory majority which may not be apparent day-to-day among regularly attending peers but can be mobilised on anything important. Labour Governments suffer from defeats in the Lords far more often than Tory ones do.

Tony Blair is wrong to talk about a battle of hereditary peers versus elected MPs. This implies that it would have been all right last week if the Government had been defeated just on the votes of life peers rather than hereditaries. This is nonsense. What was wrong was that the unelected

proach, though Mr Hague will find it hard to escape being depicted as defender of the hereditaries.

Mr Blair repeated his pledge that no single party would have an overall majority in the reformed Upper House, that a strong independent crossbench element would be preserved and that the Prime Minister would relinquish his present sole right to recommend life peers. These are significant safeguards. But there is still uncertainty over timing.

Paddy Ashdown urged the Government to make early progress on setting out their plans and a short timetable, with the royal commission reporting "not later than the spring of 2000".

Mr Blair did announce that Labour would be setting out, as a submission to the commission, "what the final stage of reform should look like" (as it did to the Neill committee on party funding).

However, the Government seems to be taking rather a dilatory attitude to the pace of reform. The signs are that nothing will happen until the new year. This is partly to ensure that the row over the Lords does not derail the rest of a crowded legislative programme. But the sooner the Government declares its thinking on the long-term future of the second chamber, the better its chance of succeeding where its predecessors have failed over the past century.

Pilot lands the big one



World Rally victory on Michelin

Michelin Pilot Tommi Makinen in his Mitsubishi clinched the 1998 World Rally Championship title on the Network Q Rally of Great Britain. But the ultimate winner is you the motorist. Pilots tested to the limits in motorsport ensure you get tyres that excel on the road. Fit the tyres fit for the World Rally Champions - Michelin Pilot Sport.



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هكذا من الأصل

Spring Lords

Shake-up for legal aid

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Don't wonder

If she hasn't already... This set gold... it will remain... stores and pick up your...

THE

هكذا من الأصل

Charges to be billions London

TRANSPORT

Year could be raised by imposing charges of up to £1,000 on parking improvements in Central London. Transport advisers are also considering whether to use a simple system of paper permits or a more sophisticated electronic system which would charge more than £200 for parking in a cordoned area, with drivers charged on a continuous basis based on miles driven.

Spring date for Lords reform

By James Landale
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is likely to delay until next year the introduction of a Bill expelling hereditary peers from the House of Lords to avoid the Government's entire legislative programme becoming bogged down by fierce Tory opposition.

The Government yesterday confirmed that it would bring forward this session a Bill abolishing the sitting and voting rights of hereditary peers, but ministers want to get other measures onto the statute book before becoming involved in any drawn-out battle over Lords reform.

The Bill is not expected to be put before the Commons before next spring. Although it will end peers' right to vote in the Lords, it will give them the right to vote in and stand for parliamentary elections.

The Tories have promised to abide by the Salisbury Convention, under which the Lords do not throw out manifesto commitments of a new Government, but peers will still be able to delay the Bill with end-



THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

less debates and amendments. For more than 200 years, convention has decreed that the Monarch is heard in respectful silence, but Labour peers and MPs responded to the Queen's announcement of the Bill with growls of "hear, hear". The Queen paused momentarily, and peers later voiced their shock and anger at the unprecedented rudeness and breach of tradition.

Lord St John of Fawsley, the former Tory minister, said that such disrespect to a monarch had been unknown since

Georgian times. "Everyone was deeply shocked. It is an absolute disgrace," he said.

The Government's plan to delay the introduction of the Lords reform Bill is not without cost. Because the Lords can delay the Bill for at least 13 months from the time of its second reading in the Commons, the longer the Government takes to introduce it, the longer it must delay other planned legislation on hunting and the right to roam, which has been postponed until after the expulsion of hereditary peers.

When they finally introduce the Bill, the Government will also publish a White Paper on further reforms, including arrangements for a new commission to supervise the appointment of life peers during the interim period. The White Paper will also establish a Royal Commission to consider reforms to make the Lords more "democratic and representative". The Government has admitted that it could be two years before the commission's report is published.

Leading article, page 23



Fashion stakes: Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, went for the modern look yesterday with a black tuxedo trouser suit. Cherie Blair was more traditional in brown, while Pauline Prescott opted for scarlet

Unions cry foul

WORKERS' RIGHTS

By Jill Sherman
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is still negotiating on the most contentious issue in its new workers' rights legislation, statutory union recognition.

Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has angered unions by considering employers' demands to water down elements of the white paper published last May.

As part of the Fairness at Work Bill unions will be able to win recognition if more than 40 per cent of the workforce vote in favour, but employers are resisting a separate proposal that unions be automatically recognised if more than half of the workforce are members. They also oppose plans to raise the ceiling on compensation for industrial tribunal appeals from £2,000 to £50,000.

A TUC delegation has already warned the Prime Minister not to water down the Bill and some trade unions have threatened to withhold funding from the election campaigns in Scotland and Wales next year if he bows to employer demands.

or to control t areas of life

LONDON

...will re... as will... civil etc...

neil 'hit squads'

WOMEN'S

...obscures
...attlefield

Shake-up for legal aid

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A CRIMINAL Defence Service that will award contracts to top lawyers for criminal work is a central plank of the biggest shake-up of legal services in 50 years. The present £1.6 billion legal aid scheme, created in 1949, will be dismantled and replaced with a system of fixed price contracts under an Access to Justice Bill.

The new service will employ lawyers on salaries and contract lawyers in private practice to handle all criminal work, from advice at police stations through to cases in court. At the same time, all civil legal aid funds will be provided through a system of contracts under a Community Legal Service.

The Law Society said that any arbitrary limit on the number of law firms doing legal aid work would restrict client choice. Michael Mathews, president, said: "This is a serious concern in the area of criminal defence work where a client's ability to choose their own legal representative is a basic human right."

It's irrelevant, says Hague

Clash likely over gay sex

THE AGE OF CONSENT

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE attacked the Government for offering the public a programme of legislation that had "everything to do with the priorities of the Labour Party and nothing whatsoever to do with the priorities of the people of Britain" (Mark Inglefield writes).

Opening the Commons debate on the Queen's Speech, the Tory leader turned to the plan to withdraw the voting rights of hereditary peers. Mr Hague predicted

THE DEBATE

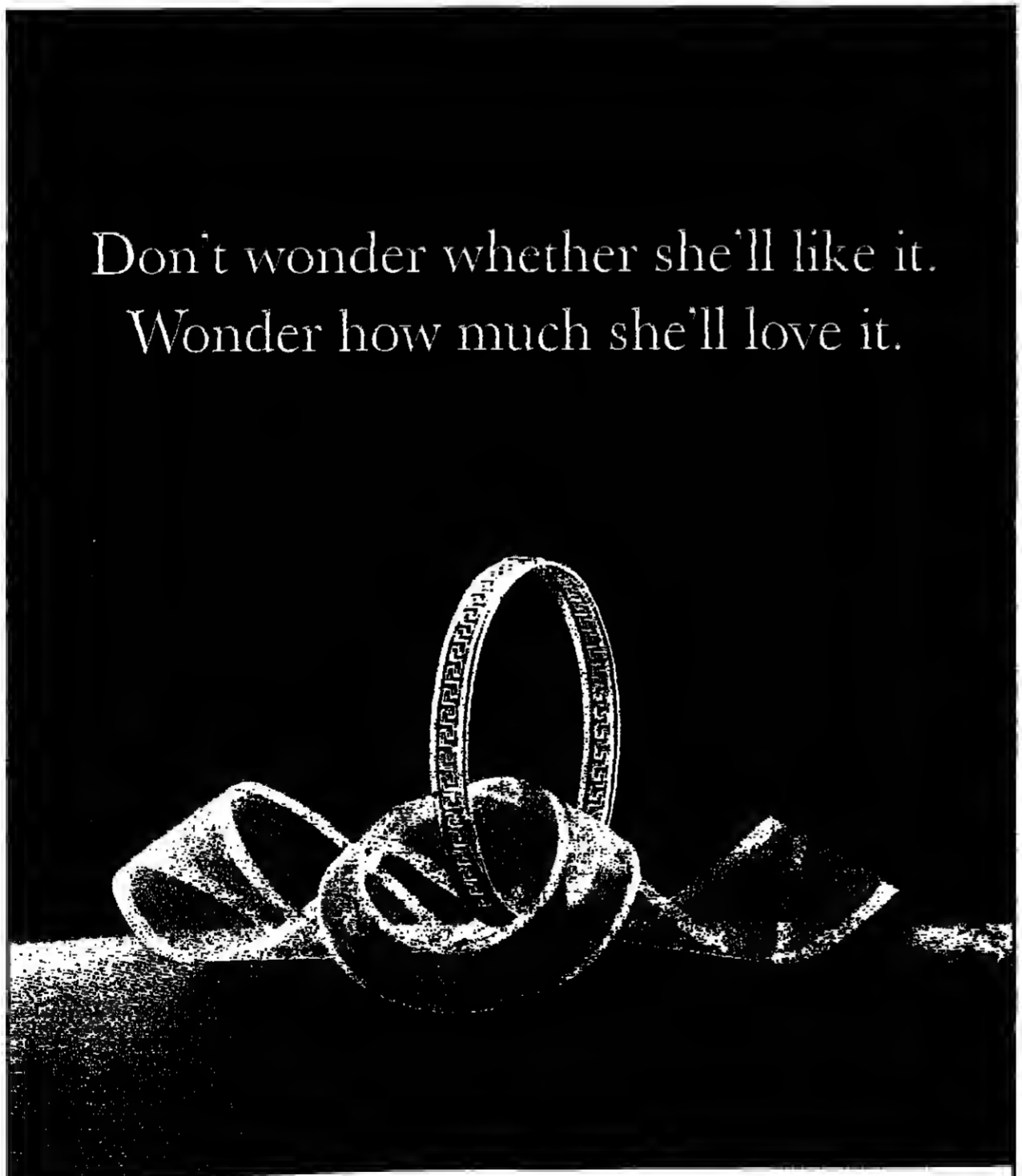
it would hang like a "millstone around the Prime Minister's neck".

He accused Mr Blair of wanting to neuter the House of Lords. The argument for "closed lists" for the European Parliament elections had made "the strongest case possible for a second chamber with independence and integrity".

Tony Blair, defending the reform of the Lords, said it would mark an end to "the feudal domination" of 750 hereditary peers. He pointed out that the centrepiece of the legislative programme were the measures to improve the NHS, schools, law and order and welfare.

THE Government risks a fresh clash with the House of Lords over its plan to press ahead with lowering the age of consent for homosexuals to 16. Ministers have decided to reintroduce the measure despite its defeat in the Lords in the summer and opinion polls showing that the public are opposed to allowing gay sex at 16.

Jack Straw hopes to persuade peers to back the move by introducing safeguards to protect teenagers from sexual advances from those in authority. The Bill, which will be on a free vote, will make it a crime for a person in a position of trust over youngsters to make a sexual advance to 16 and 17-year-olds. The new offence will apply in strictly limited circumstances, such as where a young person is particularly vulnerable or in residential care and education. Teachers and social workers will be banned from having sex with youngsters under 18 in their care, but it is not thought the law will apply if a teacher is at one school and the pupil at another.



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Ernest Jones

THE DIAMOND & WATCH SPECIALIST

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Asylum-seekers lose benefits to save £250m

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

IMMIGRATION

ASYLUM-SEEKERS are to lose their right to social security benefits under reforms of an immigration system overwhelmed by economic migrants.

The Government is seeking to cut by half the estimated £500 million asylum-seekers cost each year and to let the world know that Britain is no longer an attractive destination for economic migrants, rather than genuine refugees. Ministers have described the existing immigration system as a shambles and say that because of the backlog 110,000 refugees whose claims have been rejected would have to be removed by 2002. Last year there were 32,500 asylum applicants and the figure is expected to be 38,000 this year, there were 4,000 in 1998.

A new national agency is to be established to provide support for asylum-seekers among other services, it will provide vouchers to be exchanged in shops for food and clothing. They are to be dis-

persed around the country in bed and breakfast accommodation, hostels and disused council housing that they will have to take. The aim is to ease the burden on London boroughs such as Lambeth and Brent.

To speed up the handling of appeals — there is a backlog of 23,000 — the existing two-tier system is to be replaced with a single mechanism headed by a High Court or circuit judge. Immigration advisers are to be regulated to end abuses that have led to people from the ethnic minority communities paying substantial amounts for bad advice. There have also been reports of unqualified advisers being involved in the provision of false passports and urging people to make up false stories about persecution.

Nick Hardwick, of the Refugee Council, said the Government had chosen a high risk strategy that risked replacing one shambles with another. The Medical Foundation for



the Care of Victims of Torture gave warning that torture survivors could be deprived of medical treatment because of the Government's plans. The foundation, which is based at its centre in North London, fears that if they are sent to far-off locations they will no longer have access to appropriate care or to their community groups and assistance bodies concentrated in the London area.

Helen Bamber, the foundation's director, denounced the

voucher scheme for asylum-seekers' benefits as "dehumanising", as it would place refugees in a position of absolute dependency and deny them the opportunity to pay for a bus fare, a public lavatory or a treat for a child. "No cash and less dignity is the Government's new covenant with those seeking protection in Britain from human rights abuses abroad," she said.

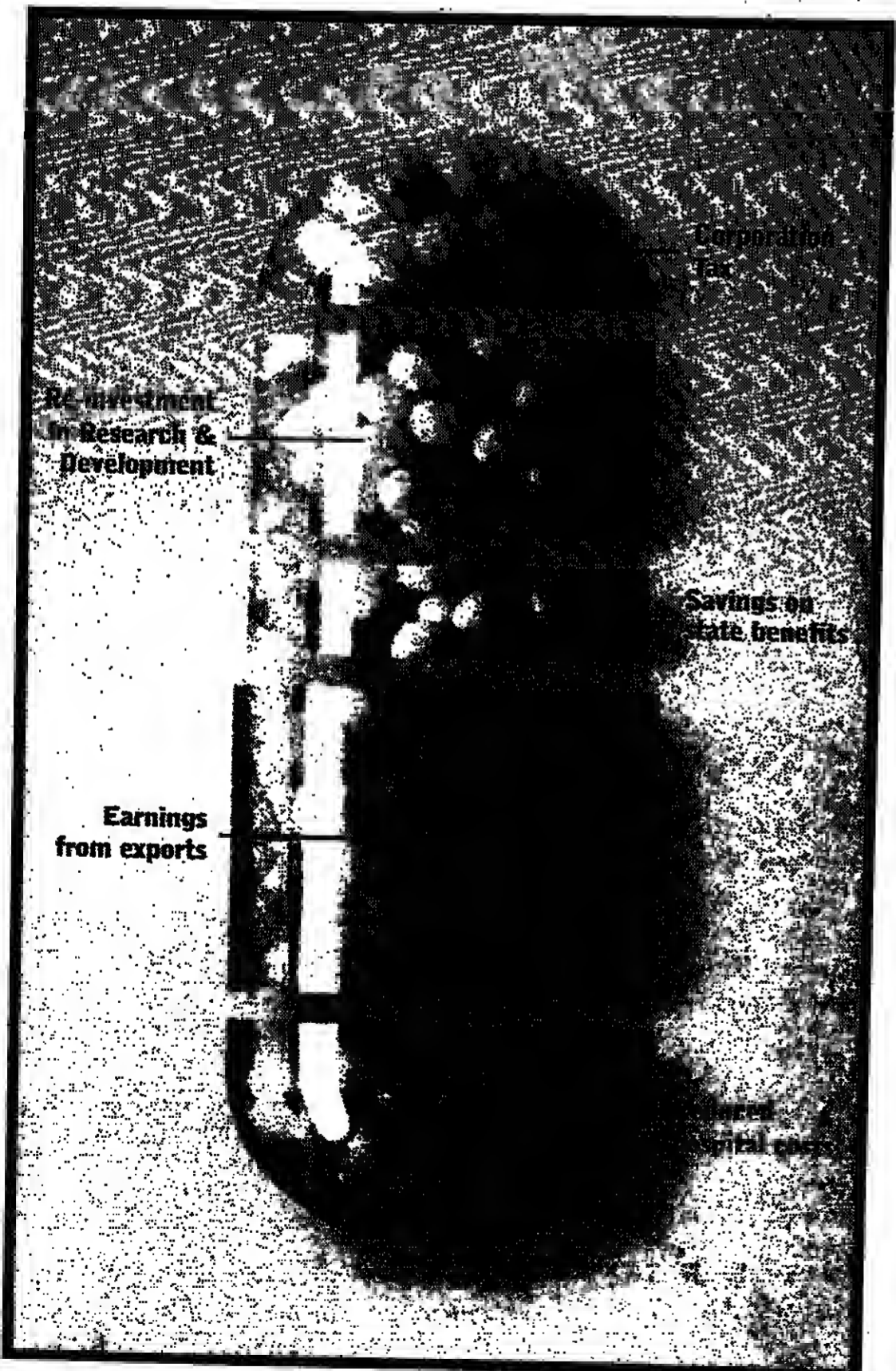
Imam Sajid, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, welcomed the plans. "They will bring major change and we anticipate that they will make entry more difficult for those whose claims are not credible. Tightening up controls on unscrupulous immigration advisers will be good for race relations."

Local authorities which take the burden of dealing with asylum-seekers welcomed moves to disperse applicants. Chris Lean, of Dover District Council, said the town's annual bill for housing 400 asylum-seekers was £70,000, although Kent County Council was paying for education and other services.



These eastern European refugees, waiting to enter Britain at Calais, decided not to try after others had been turned away

Sickness Benefit.



Re-investment
in Research &
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from exports

This year, the National Health Service will spend £6 billion on medicines - about 25 pence per person per day.

In return, the pharmaceutical industry will re-invest some 20% of its annual turnover in the search for new and improved medicines.

This investment will benefit the National Health Service by helping to reduce hospital admissions and saving over £10 billion a year on patient care.

The value of medicines goes far beyond supporting the NHS. The pharmaceutical industry provides employment for more than 300,000 people and exports over £5 billion of medicines a year, producing one of the country's largest trade surpluses of £2 billion.

Over the past five years pharmaceutical companies have committed over £2 billion in capital investment, and more is planned.

The benefit of the industry is also felt within the Treasury as pharmaceutical companies in Britain pay hundreds of millions of pounds in Corporation Tax each year.

But perhaps the industry is least known for its investment in education, funding half of all post-graduate training for GPs and supporting universities to the tune of £100 million a year.

If all this good work is not encouraged, it wouldn't just be the industry that would fall sick.

It would be the country.

The Association of the
British Pharmaceutical Industry

12 Whitehall London SW1A 2DY



TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

'Education is Government's top priority'

This is an edited text of the Queen's Speech to Parliament yesterday.

MY LORDS and Members of the House of Commons, this is my Government's second legislative programme. Like the first, it will focus upon the modernisation of the country. My Government will continue with economic policies designed to build stability for the long term, making the United Kingdom not just weather the international financial storms but to emerge stronger from them.

The central economic objectives of my Government are high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

My Government believes the decision to give the Bank of England the power to set interest rates has been crucial to the meeting of its inflation target.

Education remains my Government's top priority. A consultation paper will be brought forward on the most far-reaching reforms of the teaching profession in 50 years to enhance the status of teachers and reward high performance.

My Government will continue to build a modern National Health Service. A Bill will be introduced to replace the NHS internal market which put hospitals, doctors and nurses in competition with each other. In its place will be decentralised arrangements based on partnership, quality and efficiency.

My Government will continue to tackle crime and its causes. A Bill will be introduced to modernise the youth courts and to give greater protection for vulnerable witnesses in criminal cases. My Government will introduce legislation to modernise legal aid to make the system fairer and more cost effective.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons, my Government has made clear its determination to modernise the welfare state. A Bill will be introduced giving greater help to those in need by reforming benefits for people with long-term illness or disabilities, and modernising benefits for widows.

My Government will continue to work in partnership with business, and welcome the improved relations between business and trade unions. They will bring forward measures to establish

a balance of rights and responsibilities for employers and employees.

My Government has fulfilled their commitment to establish a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly. In Northern Ireland, my Government will continue to work towards the full implementation of the Belfast Agreement.

Legislation will be introduced to create a new Greater London authority made up of a directly-elected mayor and a separately elected assembly.

There will be a range of powers, including new powers to tackle road congestion and improve public transport. Regional development agencies will be established in England, decentralising

decision-making to the English regions.

A Bill will be introduced to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. It will be the first stage in a process of reform to make the House of Lords more democratic and representative.

My Government will publish a White Paper setting out arrangements for a new system of appointments of life peers and establish a Royal Commission to review further changes.

My Government propose that a draft Freedom of Information Bill be given pre-legislative scrutiny.

My Government are committed to tackling global poverty and promoting sustainable development. My Government will play a leading role in preparing the European Union for the historic challenge of enlargement. In particular, they will work to secure reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and Structural and Cohesion Funds.

My Government will ensure strong arrangements for defence based on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and promote peace and security, especially in the Middle East and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They will also actively pursue a resolution to the problem in Kosovo. My Government remain committed to the effective promotion of human rights worldwide.

My Government see this as a substantial set of measures seeking to meet the important and difficult challenges before us.

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons: I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

'A Bill will remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote'

'Economic policies will build stability for the long term'

DELAY TO FINANCIAL SERVICES REFORM: BUSINESS, PAGE 27

مكتبة من الأصل



AY NOVEMBER 25 1998
education is
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priority'

IBM announces
{ a Web server }

that can handle 20 million transactions a day.

Can support up to 50,000 users.

Can deliver 99.999% availability.*

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IBM

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e-business isn't just about having a Web site. It's far beyond that. e-business is about conducting huge amounts of electronic transactions between you, your customers, your suppliers - everyone. So the large enterprise server you bought a while back has become the best Web server available.

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After three decades of transformation, the IBM S/390 server sets the standard for e-business transaction serving.



IBM is working with hundreds of developers to Web-enable your S/390. To date, 1,700 new or modernised Web applications are available, with close to a thousand new ones on the way.

IBM S/390. Instant WEB server. If you think about it, you already have an enormous wealth of data on your S/390. By transforming their own S/390 enterprise server, many e-businesses have found themselves able to leverage and extend their existing system and the data that already resides there.

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The Web conversion happens at the software level and involves minimum hassle. In fact, you can create a secure, 24-hour front door to your business without needing to cobble together additional servers and software.

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The IBM S/390 hums along with no more than five minutes of planned or unplanned downtime. A year.

24/7/365 isn't a locker combination. The hottest topics in computing today are scalability, security, and most of all, availability - issues that were once talked about primarily at the mainframe level.

Now server companies are claiming mainframe attributes for their UNIX® and PC servers (in fact, chances are that at least one of your PC or UNIX servers is down right now). These distributed servers are not an S/390 enterprise server and never will be. Not alone, not clustered together. And in an e-business environment, deploying a clutch of servers that can't deliver 24x7 availability is like locking customers out of the store. Customers who can go to a competitor's site with two clicks of the mouse. However, with the latest generation of S/390 Parallel Sysplex® technology, you are guaranteed the closest thing to continuous computing, with a design point of 99.999% availability.

As a Web server, it's capable of handling up to 400,000,000 hits or 20,000,000 transactions a day, or up to 50,000 users simultaneously.



A network based on multiple servers can be open to multiple problems. And enormous complexity equals enormous costs.

Run a data mine, not a server farm. An infrastructure built on multiple servers can be open to multiple management problems. Just deploying a new major application requires a visit to each and every server. And in the environment of enterprise computing, it's a mathematical fact that enormous complexity equals enormous costs (no wonder Wachovia Bank N.A. chose to eliminate 90% of the office automation servers in their information services department through an S/390 consolidation).

With your S/390 only a single copy of a program needs to be changed on the server in order, for example, to improve the interface of your Web site, deploy a new ERP program or upgrade your e-mail capabilities.

Instead of putting critical business applications at the fingertips of the users who need them, PC, and even many UNIX servers, create Islands of information that can be nearly impossible to keep up-to-date.

Your bulletproof S/390, on the other hand, is a network of one, and has the ability to extract insight from mountains of information and reveal relationships and trends that were previously invisible.



By year's end, 2,300 organisations will have Web-enabled large enterprise servers. By the end of the decade, more than 10,000 will be operational.

Lower costs. The transactional costs of e-business can be a fraction of those of traditional commerce. You already know that.

But costs can still vary wildly depending on what hardware strategy you use. As their Web volume grows and companies use the network to perform vital tasks like managing their supply chains or implementing customer service apps, the benefits of one scalable enterprise server over dozens or even hundreds of smaller servers become apparent.

An International Technology Group^{1*} survey found that with true enterprise servers, the average cost-per-use in transaction processing was 76% lower than for centralised UNIX servers.

That's a staggering difference.

With your S/390 server, you get what is described by industry consultants as the lowest cost-per-user computing environment in the industry.

So where do you go from here? With whom do you talk with to transform your S/390 into your enterprise Web server?

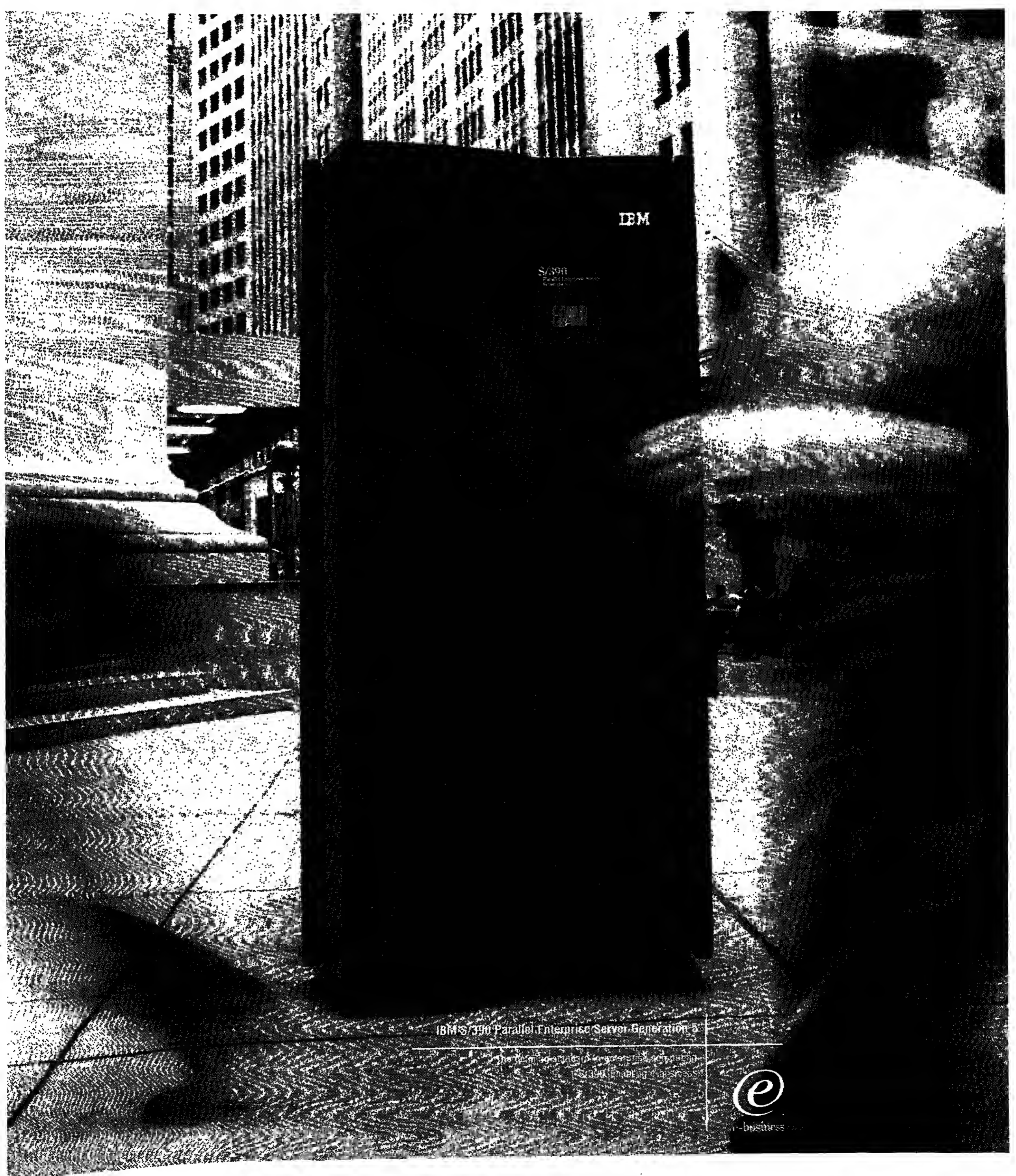
IBM can provide a way to get your existing set of servers consolidated and to train your staff to manage and continue the process. Our entire organisation is ready to help your company run more efficiently, more quickly and more profitably.

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*These figures were achieved using S/390's unique Parallel Sysplex clustering technology. 10 November, 1997. Issue date US edition. Source: Cost Implications of Platform Choice Management Brief, 1997 IBM and related IBM product names are registered trademarks or trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the U.S. and/or other countries.



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'Slave hotel' of Saudi prince angers Egypt

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT

ALLEGATIONS of outrageous behaviour towards servants and Egyptians by a big-spending Saudi prince and his foreign bodyguards living in a Cairo hotel are threatening a diplomatic crisis between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The dispute is one of several in recent years since Prince Turki bin Abdul Aziz — one of six full brothers of the ailing Saudi monarch, King Fahd — took up residence in the Ramesses Hilton. It came to light this week when two servants were seriously injured after escaping by lowering themselves on knotted bedsheets from a window on the 29th floor of the 36-storey hotel overlooking the Nile.

Ahmed Nureddin Ahmed, a butler, and Ahmed Abdel-Satar, a cook, told police that the 55-year-old prince had locked them in a room after they complained of mistreatment. They said they had not been paid for five months and that other servants were still locked up on the 28th and 29th floors of the hotel, where the Saudi entourage has been in



Prince Turki: escaping servants injured

costly sole residence for many years. According to hotel employees and police sources from the nearby Bulaq district — one of Cairo's notorious inner-city slums — the two were hurt when they jumped to a balcony on the 24th floor.

An Egyptian journalist said that he and other guests were prevented from getting to the floors by a large squad of private bodyguards led by an ex-member of the French Foreign Legion. In the past, complaints of tuggish behaviour by bodyguards of visiting Saudi royalty have frequently

been hushed up by the Cairo authorities to avoid embarrassing publicity. This time, 27 members of the Egyptian parliament are pressing the Government to explain how the Prince was able to keep his servants locked in the hotel with impunity.

Led by the ruling party deputy, Yehya Shaalan, the MPs have demanded a public debate in the People's Assembly concerning the fate of nine Egyptian servants who, it is claimed, have been locked up for several months.

Relatives of the servants have also filed requests with the public prosecutor's office demanding their release. Nabih al-Wahsh, a lawyer, added to the scandal by asking a Cairo court to order ministers to expel the Prince from Egypt.

According to diplomats, he has lived in the country for many years, since falling out with his brothers over his marriage to a Saudi woman of Moroccan origin. At the time, he had amassed a large fortune in his role as Deputy Defence Minister.

Stories of profligate spending dogged the family and forced him to seek exile in Egypt.



Victory role: the pilot celebrates after the first Palestinian Airlines aircraft landed yesterday at the new Gaza International Airport

State hopes soar as Gaza opens airport

Rafah, Gaza Strip. Palestinians hailed their first airport, inaugurated yesterday, as a symbol of statehood and a sign that the peace process with Israel was moving forward.

Crowds of men, women and children, many of whom had never seen an aircraft on the ground, cheered,

danced and sang as nine aircraft flew in from Arab states and Europe to a red-carpet welcome from Yassir Arafat, the beaming Palestinian leader.

"God willing, aeroplanes will fly from this airport carrying pilgrims to Jerusalem," Mr Arafat said in the airport VIP lounge, the roof of which is

topped with a golden orb shaped in the style of the Dome of the Rock mosque in the Holy City.

Until now, he has had to be driven to El Arish in Egypt to fly abroad since his arrival in Gaza in 1994 after the start of limited Palestinian self-rule.

The opening of the airport, built with \$250 million (£150 million) in deferred loans, was stalled for 20 months in the freeze that had beset Israeli-Palestinian peace-making. An agreement allowing it to operate was signed last Friday under the Wye interim peace deal, which the two sides negotiated last month. (Reuters)

Iraqi groups plead for funds to fight Saddam

IRAQI opposition leaders yesterday urged Martin Indyk, the US Assistant Secretary of State, to back American promises of support with substantial political and material backing for their fight to overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

At a meeting in the American Embassy in London, Mr Indyk met the 16 leaders of the various London-based opposition groups who had talks with Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Office Minister, on Monday.

The meeting came as Iraq accused America and its allies of trying to split the country through military action and sanctions. Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, told the opening of a poetry festival in Baghdad: "The tyrants and the evil of the world, America and the Zionists, and whoever is serving their interests and schemes today seek — as they did in the past and failed — to humiliate Iraq and bring it to its knees by threatening destruction." But he added: "They have forgotten that they have tried and failed before and they will fail this time also."

Iraqi newspapers also called the United States and Britain "uncivilised and immoral" for trying to rally exiled Iraqi dissidents to oust Saddam, *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper said. America and Britain had begun promoting their "evil ideas" of interfering in the nation's internal affairs after they had failed to destroy Iraq.

"What kind of morality have the ruling authorities reached in the two imperialist states? What kind of naive thinking do those gullible and deluded people have in understanding the reality of the Iraqis and the determination of its leaders?" the paper asked.

The Americans have promised some \$97 million (£60

American official hosts talks with exile factions in London, reports Michael Binyon

million) in aid to opposition groups, but have made no specific pledges of arms supplies. Britain has flatly refused to discuss weapons deliveries. At their meeting on Monday, Mr Fatchett advised them to outline to Mr Indyk what other support the West could give — including the setting-up of a broadcasting station.

Iraqi papers yesterday did not comment on the assassination attempt on Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council. He escaped death in the Shia Muslim stronghold of Karbala in southern Iraq when two grenades were hurled as he stepped from his car to represent Saddam at a religious ceremony on Sunday. Instead, the press vehemently attacked



Indyk: met 16 leaders at the American Embassy

Richard Butler, the chief United Nations weapons inspector. "What this accused devil wants is unequivocally what the United States wants. This is why he is like an enraged bull, like a Satan instilling evil in every crisis provoked by America against Iraq," the newspaper said.

Russia yesterday also attacked the meeting of opposition groups with British and American officials. The Foreign Ministry yesterday regretted that "certain countries, including Britain, have called for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime". It said: "Only the Iraqi people must decide problems with their Government."

Iraq announced yesterday that Nizar Hamdoon, its long-serving Ambassador to the United Nations, is to be replaced. His place will be taken by Saeed Hasan.

The move is part of a shake-up of 25 senior Iraqi representatives overseas, which also sees the replacement of Barzan Takriti, Saddam's half-brother — who was earlier recalled as representative to the UN in Geneva — by a former Baghdad University Dean of Law, Nabil Nejm, the Iraqi Ambassador to the Arab League, has been replaced by a former chairman of the Iraqi parliament's legal committee.

Saddam's half-brother, who was rumoured to be on the point of defection, has been granted a "courtesy extension" to stay in Switzerland until the end of the month, after the recent death of his wife.

Mr Hamdoon, formerly an ambassador to Washington, was one of the most popular and influential Iraqi envoys overseas. He has shown consistent loyalty to Saddam, but his easy manner and Western ways may have made him suspect in the leader's eyes.

Disillusion grows over South Korea's 'sunshine policy'

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN SEOUL

THE more South Korea tries to woo the Communist North the less it gets in return. Hardliners in both Seoul and Pyongyang are making the "sunshine policy" of Kim Dae Jung, the South's President, hard to justify.

The South Korean and American military commands are reportedly updating Plan 5027 — the swift occupation of the North that would follow any attack on the South which includes the possible use of nuclear weapons. A Seoul newspaper claimed yesterday that Pyongyang had already tested a trigger for a nuclear bomb.

Just as Iraq plays hard to get with United Nations access to its weapons programme, so North Korea is now denying American access to what is suspected to be a new nuclear site.

Diplomats in Seoul say that the US is in a dilemma over how to handle this Iraq of the Orient.

James Lilley, formerly the US Ambassador to Seoul, said: "It's absolute blackmail. Clinton has dug himself into a hole on this one. Every time we make a demand it's \$300 million (£184 million) for this or 300,000 tons of grain for that. It's time the US got out of the way and left policy to the South Koreans. They know how to handle them."

Mr Lilley argues that the Agreed Framework is a failure. Under the deal, the US will pay up to \$4.5 billion, Japan \$1 billion and South Korea will fund 70 per cent of two light-water nuclear reactors promised to the North for electricity generation in return for an end to its nuclear pro-



President Kim: détente with North is under fire

gramme. Increasingly, South Korean academics outside the Government agree with Mr Lilley and say that President Kim must draw the line.

The South Korean leader is trying to bring change to the North through business, investment and tourism.

Nothing could better illustrate the contradictions of the "sunshine policy" than an incident last week when a South Korean cruise liner made the first tourist visit to a North Korean port. At almost exactly the same time that it was docking, with hundreds of tourists bringing cash to the east coast of North Korea, a Communist spy boat was racing through South Korean waters on the west of the peninsula.

Whether it was intending to drop off or pick up an agent is unclear but the South Korean military failed to spot it and is once again in hot water.

But a former government official said: "While our tourists are going up there, they are developing rockets and selling weapons. The sunshine policy is inherently limited in dealing with the North."

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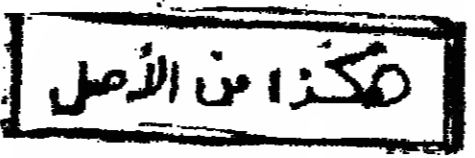
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Bishop in business scandal resigns

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Marbles lose out to God and mammon in great Greek debate

AS THE Prince of Wales discovered to his annoyance during his visit to Greece this week, few local politicians can resist the opportunity to make an impassioned public appeal for the return of the Elgin Marbles from the British Museum.

Dig a little deeper, however, and the issue, which at times seems to dominate Anglo-Greek affairs, hardly raises an eyebrow among ordinary Greeks, who feel a far greater affinity with their Byzantine heritage than with ancient Greece.

For some time now, politics and its nationalist symbols have been losing their attraction for the Greeks.

Austerity, uncertainty over the euro, and the chances of being able to buy a new car next year and get that summer home fixed up all now weigh more on the public consciousness. Ancient Greece, or the modern conception of it, understand-

The heritage issue so dear to politicians leaves voters cold, writes John Carr from Athens

by looms large in the modern Greeks' sense of themselves. Throughout this century, however, the classical past has been pressed into service as a flagwaver.

Its latest function is that of a boost for politicians thirsty for public applause. Despite polite yet firm rebuffs from Tony Blair and Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, Evangelos Venizelos, the Minister for Culture, with an unerring eye for publicity, has made the Marbles the central theme of an irredentist foreign policy in which diplomatic conventions and niceties, not to mention the Foreign Ministry itself, are brushed aside. The conserva-

Minister for Culture in the country's first Socialist Cabinet. Despite her propagandist talents, the Greek case was weakened from the beginning by its political angle. Any mention of the Greek relics in the Louvre, for example, was avoided so as not to embarrass the French Socialist Government. The Greek stand was then hastily modified to emphasise that the Marbles in the British Museum are a missing part of the unified Parthenon sculptures.

This abstract argument leaves large segments of the Greek public cold. There is a sense of resentment about having to beg for anything at all, combined with an aversion to things classical that is traceable to the compulsory teaching of classical Greek in schools until the mid-1980s. Many, if not most, Greeks recall the ordeal of memorising Homer and Xeno-

phon with a shudder. The Parthenon is visible from hundreds of flats, offices and hotel rooms and familiarity may have bred contempt. I was recently told of a taxi driver who, while near the Acropolis, pointed to the hill and boasted to his passenger that in half a century of being a cabbie he had "never once set foot on that thing".

Unwilling to be taken for tourists, most Greeks only visit the Acropolis on school trips. It is no accident that it is Greece's foreign community, including a good many Britons, that has been petitioning for the Marbles' return.

Greece's most popular figure is Archbishop Christodoulos, head of the National Orthodox Church, the sole remaining symbol of the pomp and spirituality of the Byzantine Empire. This is no coincidence. Byzantium, not the Athens of Peri-

Leading article, page 23

Bishop in business scandal resigns

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A GREEK Cypriot bishop at the centre of numerous fraud allegations involving spectacular amounts of money in several countries, including Britain, has been forced to resign by the island's Orthodox Church. Bishop Chrysanthos of Limassol escaped the humiliation of being defrocked, but was suspended for two years.

His business dealings have made local headlines for months, damaging the reputation of the Church, which has also been rocked by a series of sex scandals.

A Limassol priest was defrocked last month after abandoning his wife and four children to elope with a Romanian striptease artist.

Cypriot police are also investigating another priest, who was allegedly blackmailed into drug dealing after being photographed naked with a transvestite.

The activities of Bishop Chrysanthos first came under the spotlight in the summer, when he was named by four people arrested in Britain in connection with an alleged £2 million fraud. Two Scotland Yard detectives spent several weeks in Cyprus.

The bishop denies the accusations and insists he has stepped down only for the good of the Church.

Mossad agent quits in latest spying fiasco

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

A SENIOR official of Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency, has reportedly resigned after the third bungled spy operation in a year — the arrest of two agents in Cyprus.

The Israeli Hebrew daily newspaper, *Haaretz*, reported yesterday that the Mossad chief, Ephraim Halevy, had accepted the resignation of the operations chief, who is known publicly only as "Y".

"Before it was determined who was responsible for the foul-up, Y took ministerial responsibility upon himself for it," the paper said.

The two agents were caught with tape recordings of police conversations and surveillance devices near an army base on the Mediterranean island earlier this month.

They were charged with spying in a court in Larnaca last Friday. Their request for bail was denied and they were ordered to stand trial on December 8.

The agents, Udi Hargov, 27, and Yigal Danary, 47, who were caught in the coastal village of Ziya, have also been charged with illegal possession of wireless equipment for espionage use and conspiracy to commit a crime.

The two have claimed they are innocent, but their arrest has soured relations between Cyprus and Israel and came only days after President Weizman ended the first official visit to the Mediterranean island by an Israeli head of state.

Cyprus has accused the two of operating with a "specific intelligence institute whose headquarters is in Tel Aviv". Police on the island have also said the two were spying on behalf of Turkey, which has a defence pact with Israel.

The Israeli Government has not acknowledged publicly that the two are Mossad agents, saying only that they did not spy on behalf of Turkey and were not trying to hurt Cypriot interests.

The operations chief also offered his resignation earlier this year after Swiss police arrested five Mossad agents for allegedly spying in a residential area of Bern. A former Mossad chief, Danny Yatom, resigned in February after a failed attempt to assassinate Khaled Meshal, a leader of Hamas, the militant Islamic group, in Jordan.

The incident led to a bitter attack on Israel by King Hussein of Jordan, regarded as the closest Arab ally of the Jewish State, but Y was apparently not involved in that operation.

While Mossad has recently fallen from glory, its reputation remained unscathed after one of Israel's greatest spying scandals — the arrest in 1985 of Jonathan Pollard.

An American Jew employed in US Navy Intelligence, Mr Pollard spied for Israel under a special unit of the Israeli Ministry of Defence.

There was much debate in Israel after the disclosure that such a unit was engaged in espionage and not subject to Mossad supervision.

The Government of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has recently attempted to secure Mr Pollard's release. But the affair has left American intelligence agencies distrustful of their counterparts in the Jewish state.



Ephraim Halevy, head of Mossad, who is reported to have accepted the resignation of his operations chief, known as "Y", after two agents were arrested in Cyprus

Hopes of Cyprus missile deal rise

WESTERN hopes are rising of a deal to halt the deployment of Russian missiles in Cyprus and the threatened Turkish military retaliation (Michael Binyon writes).

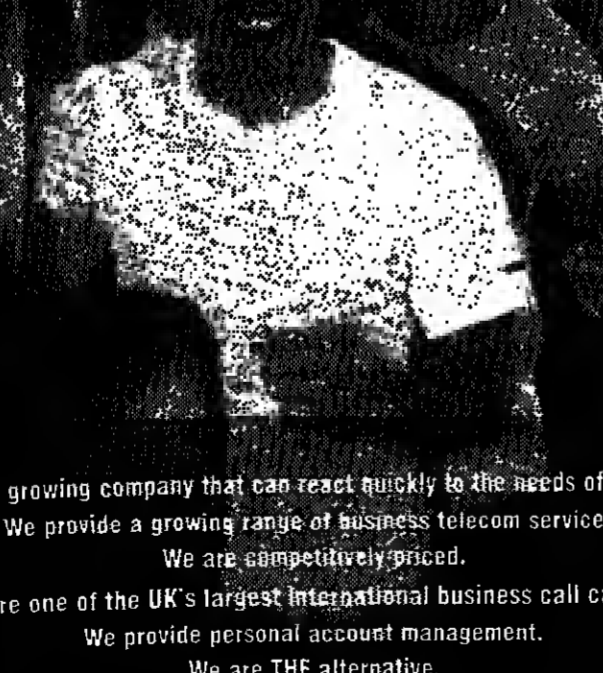
President Clerides of Cyprus yesterday had talks in London with Sir David Hannay, the European Union special representative, before going to Athens, where he is likely to face pressure to postpone or cancel the missile deployment on the Greek side of the divided island.

Any deal would be based on a moratorium on military flights over Cyprus. This could be used as a pretext by the Cyprus Government to declare that the missiles were no longer needed. Sir David yesterday described his talks with Mr Clerides as positive, but refused to give any details.

He recently held talks in Ankara, which sources suggested also went well.

Education is government's top priority

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PLAY TO FINANCIAL SERVICES... BUSINESS, PACE

Funeral bares desperation in Russia's soul

THE funeral yesterday of Galina Starovoitova, the murdered reformist Duma deputy, has provoked an outbreak of mass soul-searching in Russia by politicians and the electorate. As leading democrats gathered in the Marble Hall of the Museum of Ethnography in St Petersburg to pay their respects before the burial at the Aleksandr Nevsky Monastery, they were united both by their grief and by their desire to turn Mrs Starovoitova's death into something positive for Russia.

The extent of the country's lawlessness and corruption has been exposed beyond doubt and there is a pervasive feeling that this assassination is the last straw for those al-

The murder of a Duma reformer has united the nation, writes Anna Blundy

ready sickened by the perceived moral decline since the end of the Soviet era. An editorial in *Izvestia* stated: "Evil fears nothing today because it knows that it will not be punished. The proof is in the numerous high-profile crimes that have never been solved, in the widespread embezzlement and bribe-taking by govern-

ment officials (federal and local), in the unprecedented theft by bankers who have instantly robbed hundreds of thousands of their clients, and finally in the rise of fascism in Russia."

Mrs Starovoitova's death, which Dmitri Yakushkin, Boris Yeltsin's press secretary, has said is partly to blame for the President's continuing hospital treatment for pneumonia, is thought to have been linked to her intention to run for the governorship of the Leningrad region. Vladimir Zhirnovsky, the ultra-nationalist whom Mrs Starovoitova hoped to beat in those elections, told the RIA news agency: "There is a feeling someone is clearing space ahead of the St Petersburg polls."

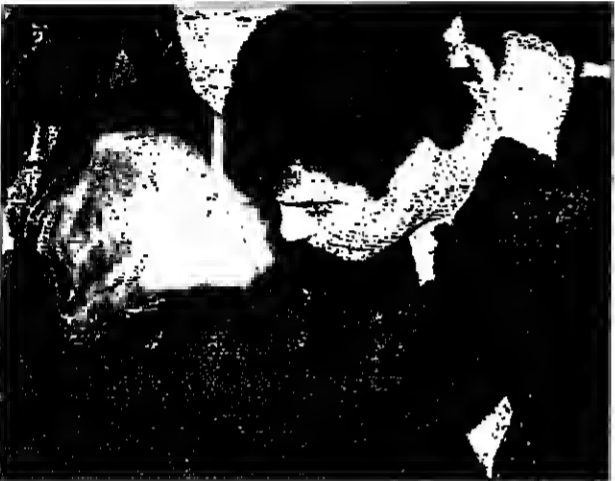
Certainly the killing is seen as an attack on the movement for democracy and reform. "Do they want to stop us? Do they want to scare us?" asked Anatoli Chubais, one of the leading architects of Russian reform, after the funeral.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Prime Minister and leader of the Our Home is Russia party, spoke at the funeral, saying that Russia's democratic forces should unite against the country's communists and fascists.

However, neither he nor Mr Chubais is free from the accusations of corruption that saturate Russian politics. Both are apparently included in the CIA report, claiming to represent conclusive evidence of corruption, that was submitted to



Mourners pay their last respects to Galina Starovoitova in St Petersburg yesterday. Her body was later buried at the Alexander Nevsky Monastery



Boris Nemtsov, former Deputy Prime Minister, with Mrs Starovoitova's mother, Rimzia, at the funeral

the office of Al Gore, the American Vice-President, in 1995.

Mr Yeltsin himself, whose anti-corruption ticket won him the presidency, has also been the subject of claims of illegal activity. Viktor Ilyukhin, a Communist at the forefront of the failed campaign to impeach the President and to have him retired on health grounds, has produced documents seeming to give President Yeltsin the right to control 26 per cent of shares in ORT, a television company owned by Boris Berezovsky, the businessman.

The President's administration denies any wrongdoing on the part of Mr Yeltsin and

the scheme has been widely dismissed as something cooked up by Aleksandr Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's former bodyguard.

Mr Berezovsky is at the centre of a separate scandal precipitated by his claims that the Federal Security Service (FSB) had issued orders to kill him. President Yeltsin has ordered an investigation into corruption in the FSB after this and other reports of murder plots, kidnappings, extortion and infiltration by organised crime groups.

Mr Berezovsky's claims, backed up by several FSB officers, have been flatly denied by Vladimir Putin, the organisa-

tion's director and the man at the head of the Starovoitova investigation, who is threatening to sue for libel.

Mr Berezovsky has been active in the recent campaign against anti-Semitism by the Communist Party, brought to the fore by the rampantly anti-Semitic and unchallenged remarks of a leading Communist, General Albert Makashov. The increasingly blatant xenophobia of the Communists prompted *Izvestia* magazine to feature a photograph of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, on its cover with a Hitler-style moustache scrawled over his top lip. Mr Zyuganov, whose party is also

in a dispute with Russia's media, demanding censorship, is threatening legal action against the magazine.

The Communists and their nationalist allies have been publicly blamed for the death of Mrs Starovoitova, but Mr Zyuganov believes that the Russian experiment with democracy is the real culprit.

He says that the changes in Russia since the Soviet era have led to "new attacks on state security and interior agencies by liberal radicals".

Few Russians nowadays have any faith in the integrity of their politicians or businessmen. Claims by Grigori Yavlinsky, a liberal radical and Ya-

bloko party presidential candidate, of corruption in the Government and allegations that many government positions are supported by 63 per cent of Muscovites.

Political target: Shots were fired at the home of a politician in St Petersburg, the *Interfax* news agency said. The police did not say if the incident was connected to the murder of Mrs Starovoitova.

The shots were fired at the windows of an apartment belonging to Konstantin Serov, 32, who is standing for re-election to the St Petersburg assembly. No one was hurt. (AFP)

EU threatens trade war over Kurd leader

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union yesterday stepped belatedly into the crisis between Turkey and Italy over Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish separatist leader, to warn Ankara that it would face sanctions if it enforced a boycott of Italian goods.

Jacques Santer, President of

the European Commission, said any Turkish embargo against Italy over its refusal to extradite Mr Ocalan would breach agreements between the EU and Ankara and lead to retaliation.

Mr Santer's words were warmly received by Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister. The Turkish authorities have banned the purchase

of Italian goods for public buildings and threatened further sanctions to demonstrate anger over Italy's refusal to extradite the founder of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), who applied for political asylum after being detained in Rome on November 14. Italian judges ruled that Mr Ocalan, who is deemed by Ankara to be a terrorist respon-

sible for the deaths of thousands, could not be sent to a country where he would face the death penalty.

Ankara: Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Prime Minister, yesterday relented on his insistence that Mr Ocalan be extradited to Turkey and said he might instead be extradited to Germany or sent to a third country. (AFP)



Carlos: vigorous stream of self-publicity

Jackal's jail fast ends 'by order'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

CARLOS the Jackal, the jailed terrorist who has ended a hunger strike after 20 days, insisted yesterday that he was stopping his protest because he was ordered to by a radical Palestinian leader — and not just because he was hungry.

On November 3 Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, announced that he was refusing to eat in protest at ill-treatment by guards. Prison doctors accused the convicted guerrilla of faking the hunger strike.

Carlos, 49, became thinner, but remained as self-inflated as ever. Nine days into the protest he began drinking water, and although his lawyers and family claimed he was "near death" he kept up a vigorous stream of self-publicity from his cell at La Santé prison in Paris.

He announced on Monday night that he was ending his action after receiving a letter from Georges Habash, the head of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. But Carlos's decision to begin eating again coincided with a marked waning of interest in his protest in the French media.

The letter from Mr Habash read: "I shake your hands, full of the hope that you will remain a solid international militant... this requires that you stay alive and in good health to be able to continue the fight for the noble cause that is ours. It is unacceptable for an activist such as you to give up and let himself die."

Carlos's lawyers said that his client had "agreed to the request of Mr Habash, which he considered an order".

But it appears more likely that he decided to end his fast with a face-saving excuse because he was no longer getting the attention — and food — he desired.

He is serving a life sentence for killing two French agents, and is under investigation for four more terrorist attacks.

Macedonia force to watch over monitors in Kosovo

FROM TOM WALKER IN SKOPJE

INTERNATIONAL monitors negotiated the release of a Serb policeman captured by the Kosovo Liberation Army yesterday as Nato put the finishing touches to plans for a 1,800-strong "extraction force" in neighbouring Macedonia. It is designed to spring into action were a monitor to be taken hostage in the conflict.

Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, and General Wesley Clarke, the Supreme Commander, will fly to Kumanovo in northeast Macedonia tomorrow to open the Kosovo Verification Command Centre, a military airbase where information from Nato spyplanes over Kosovo will be correlated with that gathered by monitors in the province.

By early next year there should be nearly 2,000 monitors in Kosovo — but in a conflict that most diplomats fear will worsen next spring, there is a good chance that the observers will make tempting hostage targets for Albanians and Serbs.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is running the mission to verify the tenuous ceasefire, gives the monitors five days of training in the ski resort of Brezavica, on the Kosovo side of the Macedonian border. Advice includes what to do if taken hostage.

But ultimately, the verifiers' lives will depend on the ability of the French-led extraction force to leapfrog the mountain-

ous border and drop commandos from helicopters. The OSCE training on Mount Brezavica is being led by Italians. "We had these kind of problems already in Bosnia, and I found this to be the best kind of reaction: no reaction at all," David Pigeant, a police inspector, advised his latest OSCE group. "The most important thing is to be as flat as possible; very, very neutral."

Hundreds of Albanians and Serbs have been abducted and many tortured and killed. Yesterday, Goran Zilic, a policeman, was handed over to international monitors near the village of Lapastina, 30 miles north of Pristina — an act of charity in a Balkan saga of vengeance.

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US questions merits of hard line on Cuba

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

THE White House is considering a proposal that some experts say is the first serious effort to re-examine American relations with Cuba for almost two decades.

The idea, backed by Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, is to create a bipartisan commission to review US policy towards the Communist-run island. It was expected to be brought up yesterday during a meeting between Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, and the three Cuban American members of Congress, who strongly oppose lifting the 35-year-old US economic embargo against the Havana regime.

The plan was proposed a month ago when the White House received a letter signed by 12 Republican members of Congress, saying it was time to examine how effective the embargo had been. Their call was backed by several senior former Republican administration officials, including three former Secretaries of State — Dr Kissinger, George Shultz and Lawrence Eagleburger.

"More and more Americans are becoming concerned about the far-reaching effects of our policy on US interests and the Cuban people," the authors wrote. Although no decision

has been made to go ahead with the commission, American officials say that it is being carefully studied.

"We are giving every consideration to this proposal," said a State Department official. "Before reaching its decision, the Administration will consider several issues, such as the composition and mandate of the commission and, in view of Fidel's [Castro's] unwillingness to undertake any internal reform, how much a commission may promote the goal that we share of protecting human rights and a transition to democracy in Cuba."

The proposal has been welcomed by some moderates in Miami's Cuban American community, who have been pushing for a change in policy. "This is the best chance the US has right now to redefine US-Cuba policy," said Damien Fernández, a leading Cuban scholar at Florida International University. "I think there's a momentum and there's enough interest in the Administration for this to happen. They are really pushing."

Experts say that the commission provides the Clinton Administration with a convenient mechanism to get around the current US law on Cuba, dictated by the so-called Helms-

Burnot Act, passed two years ago, which tightened the embargo and extended it to undermine non-US investments in Cuba.

But some Cuban American hardliners complain that the commission is unnecessary because US-Cuban policy is the product of a bipartisan agreement between Democrats and Republicans in Congress. They say the commission idea is tainted by hidden financial and commercial interests of those backing it — some of whom have expressed interest in doing business in Cuba.

Meanwhile, Juanita Castro, 65, President Castro's sister, says she is considering writing her own history of the family — once prominent sugar growers on the Caribbean island. She says it would counter the release of a memoir by Alina Fernández — Castro's daughter born out of wedlock — that depicts her father as a thief.

"It would be the ideal way to respond to the atrocities and lies in this book and many others that have offended us deeply," she said. "I can understand and accept what some of those authors have put in their books. They don't realise they are harming a whole family who are not at fault for what Fidel has done."



Juanita Castro, sister of the Cuban President, who says she wants to put her family record straight after her illegitimate niece accused Fidel Castro of being a thief

WORLD IN BRIEF

Sudan to restore multiparty system

Khartoum: Sudan is to reintroduce a multiparty system after a nine-year ban. The decision was taken after the Khartoum parliament approved a Bill on Monday, the state-owned *al-Anbaa* newspaper said.

President Omar el-Bashir, who banned parties, unions and other groups after taking power in a 1989 coup, is due to sign the Bill into law this week. It will become effective on New Year's Day. Earlier, parliament passed a Bill forming a constitutional court as part of the Government's declared plan to restore democracy to the country, gripped by a long civil war between the Muslim north and Christian and animist south. (Reuters)

Cambodia exile returns

Phnom Penh: Sam Rainsy, Cambodia's lone Opposition leader, returned after two months of self-imposed exile, defying blanket security to pledge continued rejection of Hun Sen's Government. Armed police followed him, preventing scores of well-wishers from staging a demonstration. At one point police motorcyclists used batons to beat back supporters. Sam Rainsy said his return for today's convening of the national assembly did not signal his acceptance of the election results on July 26, which he claimed Hun Sen had won by fraud and intimidation. (AFP)

Gun raid at Paris store

Paris: Masked robbers burst into a Paris department store and shot a passerby in the head when he tried to stop them, gravely wounding him, police said. Three others were seriously injured, two of them having been attacked with gun butts, and at least five were treated for shock. The thieves were chased by a crowd of shoppers, but escaped through the back entrance of the shop with Fr240,000 (about £24,000) from the money-changing office at the Printemps store on the Right Bank. (AP)

Child role for singer

Washington: George Michael, right, will not deliver meals on wheels to Aids patients in Los Angeles — as he had wished — after all (Giles Whittell writes). The British singer, who faces 81 hours of community service for performing a lewd act in a public lavatory, must spend the time encouraging children to do charity work, a Beverly Hills judge has ordered. The singer "came out" as a homosexual after his arrest.



Olympic lawyer quits

Sydney: Rod McGeogh, the businessman who spearheaded Sydney's successful campaign to host the 2000 Olympic Games, has resigned from the organising committee amid allegations that he asked for £3,000 to address a delegation of visiting Americans (Roger Maynard writes). The prominent Sydney lawyer, who is credited with beating off Beijing to host the millennium Olympics, said he was the victim of a "campaign of destabilisation".

Kidnappers condemned

Guadalajara: The Roman Catholic Church in Mexico is to excommunicate kidnappers in a campaign against soaring crime. Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez said. The deal to banish kidnappers would be signed this week by 12 bishops from western Mexico. Kidnappings and other crimes have soared since a devaluation of the peso in 1994 plunged Mexico into recession. (Reuters)

Indian elite dined out on protected game

ANIMAL rights campaigners in India are demanding the prosecution of leading politicians who consumed a lavish dinner of 17 types of meat from some of the country's rarest animals and birds, most of which are supposedly protected by law.

Parliament has been asked to debate the affair, which has focused attention on the parlous state of Indian wildlife. The meal, given in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, included spotted deer, wild boar, Indian bison, sambar (elk), black buck and cheetal (small deer). There were also platters of seagulls, quails, snipes,

Christopher Thomas in Delhi reports on calls to prosecute after wildlife banquet

pelicans and jungle fowls. Some creatures were hunted for the banquet. State machinery was used to aid the slaughter. Meat was also bought at public expense from poachers who specialise in the slaughter of protected animals, making a mockery of government wildlife campaigns. Andhra Pradesh has some of the richest varieties of wildlife in India, but its forests are plundered by

poachers operating almost without interference from the state government. Most exotic birdlife is now extinct in the region because of the unfettered activities of birdcatchers. There was no particular occasion for holding the banquet; it appears to have been nothing more than a boastful exercise by politicians demonstrating their wealth and power. G. M. C. Balayogi, Speaker of the

Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament), was among the guests. There have been widespread demands for the Central Bureau of Investigation to prosecute everybody who attended the dinner. But this will never happen because of the collective political power of the diners.

The arrest of Salman Khan, one of the Bollywood film industry's biggest heartthrobs, for allegedly hunting endangered animals has also focused attention on the vulnerability of wildlife. He has been released on bail. Several other film stars who hunted with him could also be

charged. The Bishnoi ethnic community in Rajasthan, which for more than 500 years has sworn non-violence against any living being, is leading a campaign for Mr Khan to be brought to trial. Parts of Rajasthan are home to several hundred species of deer, including the rare black buck, one of which was shot in the film-star hunt.

The Bishnois are so alarmed by the poaching that they have abandoned their core tenet and asked for weapons to save endangered wildlife from hunters. Many have died trying to protect animals and trees.

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Is this how life really began?

An extraordinary theory about the origins of life is causing controversy, says Nigel Hawkes

The discovery of the world's oldest oil from rocks three billion years old was reported by Australian scientists last month. Last week the US space agency Nasa flew two aircraft into the path of the Leonid meteor shower in an attempt to discover whether particles from a comet contained traces of life.

These two unrelated events — one far beneath the surface of the Earth, the other far above it — are united by an extraordinary theory from one of the world's most original minds. Thomas Gold, now 78, has been throwing up provocative ideas for half a century, ever since he collaborated with Fred Hoyle and Hermann Bondi on the "steady state theory" of the Universe.

Though vanquished by the Big Bang, steady state theory has an honourable place in the history of cosmology. Dr Gold now concedes that he is "doubtful" it is right — a handsome concession by his standards — but that it was a path well worth following which led to an understanding of the origin of the elements.

His track record is impressive. Born in Vienna, he fled Hitler in the 1930s, took his degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, and helped to develop radar for the Admiralty between 1942 and 1946. His university career has taken him to Cambridge, Harvard and Cornell, and through research in zoology, physics, astronomy, radio-physics, space research and cosmology. He is, says Bondi, one of the outstanding scientists of our time.

In a famous encounter at a Royal Astronomical Society meeting in 1951, Gold asserted that the radio signals recently detected from space came from objects far outside our galaxy, a view derided by the radio-astronomer Martin Ryle. Gold was right, Ryle wrong. Much later, after the metronomic radio sources known as pulsars were discovered, Gold guessed they were rotating neutron stars — right again.

Perhaps most extraordinary of all, he made a claim about the mechanism of hearing, based on his experiments of 1946. For 30 years audiologists treated this as the meddling of an ignorant outsider until finally they acknowledged he was right. Freeman Dyson, a physicist whom Gold volunteered for the experiments, says: "About every five years he invades a new field of research and proposes an outrageous theory that arouses intense opposition from experts in the field. He then works very hard to prove the experts wrong."

None of Gold's theories has raised quite as many hackles as the one he outlines in

His claims bear on the wealth of nations

his new book, *The Deep Hot Biosphere* (Copernicus, £19). Even by Gold's standards, this is a humdinger. It amounts to saying that the geologists are entirely wrong about the origin of oil and natural gas, while the biologists are wrong about the origin of life. Why stir up one hornet's nest when you can stir up two?

The traditional theory of how oil and natural gas came to be in the Earth's crust is that they are the product of the decay of tiny creatures. That has implications both for the amounts of these valuable commodities in the crust, and on where to look for them. According to this view, hydrocarbons are the product of life.

Gold's view is the opposite: life, he asserts, is the product of hydrocarbons. As the Earth formed by the coalescence of chunks of material, which included carbon, it trapped complex hydrocarbons in its interior, from which they have been seeping upwards ever since. The gas and oil which the world relies on are, in his view, primordial and probably without limit.

Furthermore, they have provided nourishment for a subterranean life of bacteria deep in the crust. Gold says that human beings suffer from "surface chauvinism" — as creatures who live in the thin envelope between earth and sky, we can't contemplate the notion that other forms of life live beneath the crust.

Yet they do. In the past decade, a series of discoveries has shown that bacteria which have no need of light can survive and flourish in the interstices of the deep rocks, obtaining their energy by chemical rather than photosynthetic means. Biologists see these extremophiles, as they are called, as surface-living creatures which have invaded the depths, evolving to suit conditions. To Gold, it is the other way round: the extremophiles evolved first; we are merely a successful above-ground branch of the life they set in motion.

Recent research has also shown that comets, which can be considered remnants of the material from which the solar system was built, do contain organic material, including amino acids, the basic building blocks of life. That is why Nasa

was following the trail of the comet Tempel-Tuttle, fragments of which burn up in our atmosphere every year to form the Leonid meteor shower. If the comets contain such materials, then it is likely that the primitive Earth contained them too.

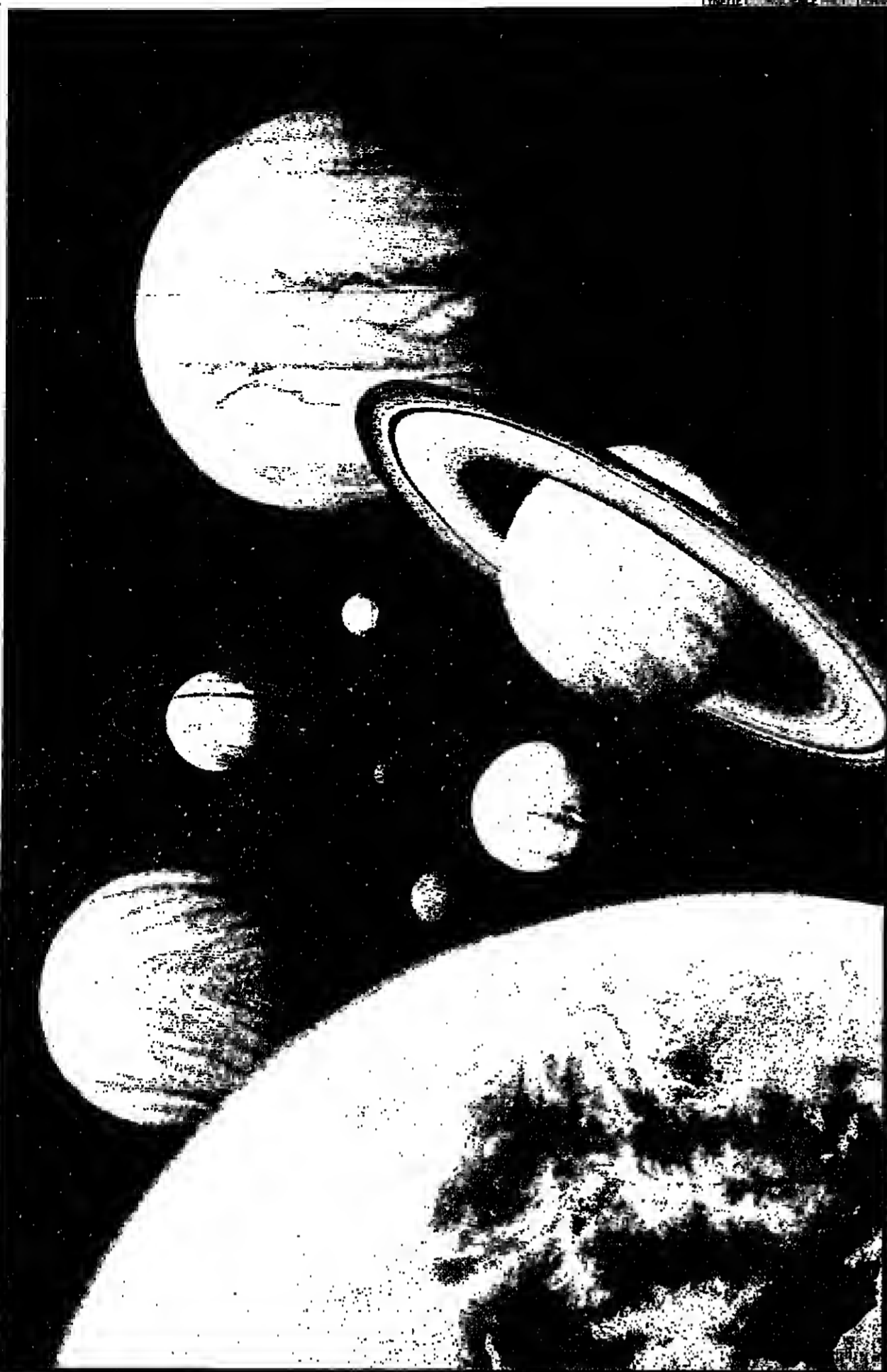
The obvious way to check Gold's theory was to drill a deep hole — somewhere geologists would least expect to find oil and gas. The drill was carried out in oil-poor Sweden, with results that are at best ambiguous. Near Rånrvik, the drill holes reached a depth of 6.7km and produced about 12 tonnes of crude oil. Was this confirmation or disproof? To find so much oil where not a drop would be expected was remarkable. But to the oil industry, 12 tonnes (84 barrels) is barely a teaspoonful. "They claimed it was diesel oil that had been poured down the hole," says Gold. "But chemically it was completely different from diesel oil. We drilled another hole, 11km away, and found the same oil."

Geologists, including those who discovered the three-billion-year-old oil, remain convinced that oil is biogenic — the product of life. But there is a paradox they find hard to explain, and paradoxes, says Gold, "are merely nature's polite way, soft to voice, of informing us that our understanding is incomplete or erroneous." The problem is that of explaining why helium is so often found along with oil and gas, and never on its own.

Gold believes that the movement of the primordial hydrocarbons through the crust sweeps up helium, which is produced by radioactive decay in the rocks, and carries it upwards. Geologists, he says, have no explanation except to say that helium produced in the crust must be trapped by the same geological structures that trap oil and gas. If that were true, there should be some traps where there is helium, but no oil or gas — none has been found. Gold says: "I have challenged them at geological meetings and said 'You give me a more plausible theory, or deny that my theory is right.' They can't."

If Gold is right, his theory has another consequence. In many planets of the solar system, there should be life below the surface. Finding it could prove difficult, since drilling into Mars, for example, is still beyond human ingenuity. But Gold suggests that traces of past life may be found on the surface of Mars — in such places as the canyon Valles Marineris, where landslides have exposed material which must once have been deeply buried.

Gold makes big claims that bear on world affairs, the wealth of nations and on people's reputations. As a controversialist with 50 years' experience, he is unrepentant: "I don't think I have anything to apologise for. I am almost always right."



Out of this world: Thomas Gold's theory suggests that life exists beneath the surface of other planets in our solar system

Darwin's hidden secrets



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

CHARLES DARWIN may have called his masterpiece *The Origin of Species*, but it actually says little about that subject. He explains how individual species evolve, but not how new species originate. This process, known as speciation, remains deeply puzzling even today, despite the huge growth of knowledge about molecular genetics.

Geographical isolation and a change in the environment are two factors that favour speciation, but they hardly seem

adequate to trigger it. Now two teams, one from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, and the other from the University of Chicago, have identified genes that could control the process.

The Chicago team, led by Professor Chung-I Wu, started from the observation that matings between closely related species — the horse and the donkey, for example — often produce offspring that are sterile. Male sterility appears to be a barrier that keeps species apart. Using fruit flies, Professor Wu and colleagues searched

for the genes responsible. They took progressively shorter pieces of DNA from one species, *Drosophila simulans*, and introduced them into another, *Drosophila mauritiana*. They knew that the gene they wanted must lie between the shortest insert that caused infertility and the longest that did not.

In the current issue of *Science* they report that the gene they found, called *Odsys*, lies on a piece of DNA that hardly changes between species. These so-called homeobox genes, which are involved in shaping the embryo and controlling development

of its cells, are among the slowest-evolving of all genes. "Homeobox genes usually don't differ by more than a few base pairs, even when you compare them in humans and invertebrates," says Professor Wu. "But when we looked at this homeobox gene in two very closely related species of fruit fly, they were extremely different, suggesting that the gene is evolving at a highly accelerated rate."

He estimates that it is changing up to 1,000 times faster than any other homeobox gene studied. The reason, he believes, is that it controls male sexual function, and rapid changes in such genes would be favoured because they might give one male the edge in the struggle to fertilise females. But the rapid change also means that one male's DNA may alter so

quickly that it can no longer work when combined with the DNA of a female which has not changed. In this case, the two can produce offspring, but the males are sterile, so the line comes to an abrupt end. Similar rapid evolution lies behind another model of speciation, from Dr Willie Swanson and Dr Victor Vacquier of

Scripps, published in *Science* in July. They show that in the abalone — a mollusc — the sperm produce a protein, lysin, which creates a hole in the egg envelope to enable fertilisation to occur. Lysin has to lock on to a receptor on the egg for this to occur, and the gene for that receptor can change rapidly, just like *Odsys*. The changes are that other genes are also involved. But it looks as if the secrets hidden to Darwin are at last beginning to be unlocked.

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*Bed and breakfast per person per night. Other available for breakfast taken before 20 December 1998.
†These are former associated hotels and not part of the Heritage collection.

Fire and ice in Soho

LUCK can cut both ways, as the operators of the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Soho) have discovered. In June, Soho, a satellite in deep space used to observe the Sun, spun out of control after a ground-control error. Deprived of power from its solar cells, Soho faced disaster. Some instruments were thrown into deep-freeze, others, exposed constantly to the Sun, heated up. When control was eventually regained the fear was that the instruments would have been wrecked. Far from it: the ones that were chilled survived well. One that was baked has actually benefited from the experience.

The Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope, designed to study the Sun's corona, had been plagued since launch in 1995 with contaminants, including water vapour and residues of hydrocarbons, which cut sensitivity.

When Soho went away, the instrument was exposed for several months to direct sunlight, raising its temperature to more than 30C. This apparently evaporated the contamination, so that when it was switched on again, it worked much better.

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 24: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh...

of the Republic of Kenya and welcomed His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty. The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE November 24: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Athens Chamber of Commerce and met members of a West of Scotland Trade Mission to Greece and their Greek counterparts.

His Royal Highness this afternoon toured the British School in Knossos. The Prince of Wales afterwards attended a Reception given by the Regional Governor of Crete at the Heraklion Museum, Knossos.

His Royal Highness this evening arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt from Greece. Gun Salutes were fired in Green Park by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and from the Tower of London Saluting Battery by the Honourable Artillery Company.

The Imperial State Crown, the Sword of State and the Cap of Maintenance were conveyed previously to the House of Lords in a Carriage Procession, escorted by a Regalia Escort of the Household Cavalry.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms was on Duty in the Prince's Chamber and the Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard was on duty in the Royal Gallery.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh returned to Buckingham Palace and were received by the Lord Chamberlain and the Vice-Chamberlain of the Household.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness held an Evening Reception at Buckingham Palace for the Diplomatic Corps at which the Prince of Wales and the Prince Edward were present.

Today's royal engagements The Queen, as patron, will attend a reception for Cottage Homes at St James's Palace, at 12.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel, will visit the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, Surrey, at 11.15.

The Princess Royal, patron, Scottish Nationalist Party Club, will attend the Scottish National Winter Fair at the Perth Agricultural Centre, Croft Road, Perth, at 9.30.

Mr Alan Waterworth (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside) was present at Liverpool Airport this morning upon the Arrival of the President of Ireland and welcomed Mrs McAloose on behalf of the Queen.

The Lord General (Extra Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of The President

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BIRTHS PALMER - On November 22nd 1998 at the Portland Hospital in London, the birth of a son, Oliver Ben.

DEATHS BISHOP - On November 22nd 1998 at the Portland Hospital in London, the death of a son, Oliver Ben.

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Audrey Baker, a florist, takes a professional look at some of the blooms at the Westminster flower show yesterday

Exotic plants keep autumn chills away

By ALAN TOOGOOD HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT AUTUMN flowering trees and shrubs have given rise to exotic plants at the Royal Horticultural Society's flower show.

Memorial services

Dame Catherine and Mr Tom Cookson The Lord-Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear was represented by Colonel Hugh Brown at a celebration at the State Opening of Parliament.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.S. Allen and Miss L.M.E. Johanson The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Allen, of Woodgreen, Co Antrim, and Linda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ernest Johnston, of Broughshane, Co Antrim.

Birthdays today

Sir John Drummond, writer and broadcaster, 64. Sir Cosmo Haskard, former Governor, Falkland Islands, 82. Mr Diddie Jeeps, former chairman, Sports Council, 67.

Prior's Field School, Godalming

The Governors of Prior's Field School announce the appointment of Mrs Jenny McCloy to succeed Mrs Jenny McCloy as Headmistress in September 1999.

Service luncheon

RASC and RCT Officers Luncheon Club General Sir Sam Cowan was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Officers Luncheon Club held yesterday at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

Luncheon

Tallow Chandlers' Company The Lady Mayoress was a speaker at a Tallow Chandlers' Company luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, London.

Receptions

Baroness Jay of Paddington Baroness Jay of Paddington was the host at a reception held yesterday at the House of Commons to mark the launch of the Society of Authors' 'Agenda for Personal Safety'.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Lope de Vega, dramatist, Madrid, 1562; Catherine of Braganza, Queen Consort of Charles II, Vila Rica, Portugal, 1638; Charles Kemble, actor-manager, Brecon, 1775; Joseph Lancaster, educator, London, 1778; Andrew Carnegie, iron and steel manufacturer and philanthropist, Dunfermline, 1835; Karl Benz, pioneer of the motor car, Karlsruhe, Germany, 1844; Angelo Ronchini, Pope John XXIII, 1963; Sotio I Monie, 1881; Nikolai Vavilov, plant geneticist, Moscow, 1897.

Service reception

Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme Field Marshal Lord Inge, Coastal of HM Tower of London, with Sir Neil Thomas, Chairman of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme, received the guests at a reception held last night at HM Tower of London.

Lecture

English Speaking Union Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, delivered the English-Speaking Union's 1998 Churchill Lecture at Guildhall last night.

Church news

The Ven Anthony Charles Footitt, Archdeacon of Lynn, has been appointed to the Suffragan See of Lynn in the Norwich Diocese in succession to the Right Rev David John Conner on his appointment as Dean of Windsor.

Anniversaries

DEATHS: Edward Albee, actor-manager, London, 1928; Isaac Waiss, hymn writer, London, 1748; Joseph Wilson, sculptor, London, 1903; Sir Francis Chantrey, sculptor, London, 1841; Sir Augustus Calcott, landscape painter, London, 1844; John Gibson Lockhart, biographer of Sir Walter Scott, Abbotsford, 1854; Heinrich Barth, explorer in Africa, Berlin, 1865; Lillian Baylis, founder of the Old Vic, London, 1937; Johannes Jensen, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate 1944, Copenhagen, 1950; Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, mining magnate, Johannesburg, 1957; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, London, 1965; Upton Sinclair, novelist, Bound Brook, New Jersey, 1968; Yukio Mishima, writer, committed ritual suicide, Tokyo, 1970; U Thant, Secretary-General of the UN 1961-71, New York, 1974.

THE TIMES OBITUARY PROFESSOR PERS TICKETS FOR SALE FOR SALE OVERSEAS TRAVEL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

OBITUARIES

SIR KENNETH OXFORD

Sir Kenneth Oxford, CBE, QPM, former Chief Constable of Merseyside, died on November 23 aged 74. He was born on June 25, 1924.



Oxford: very much a policeman's policeman with his fundamentalist approach to law and order

Throughout his forty-year career, whether as a promising young detective with the Metropolitan Police or as Chief Constable of Merseyside, Kenneth Oxford was driven by a deeply held conviction that the effects of crime go beyond its immediate victims and strike at the heart of civil society.

down in relations between police and community at the time of the 1981 Toxteth riots.

Kenneth Gordon Oxford was born in Lambeth, South London, and educated locally at Caldecot School. His mother died when he was seven, and he was brought up by his elder brother and his father, a hospital maintenance engineer.

Prominent among the investigations with which he was involved was that into the notorious A6 murder of August 1961. The case led to the conviction, after what was then Britain's longest ever murder trial, of James Hanratty, a naive and semi-literate petty crook who was hanged, still protesting his innocence, on April 4, 1962.

The Hanratty case became something of a cause célèbre, and the original police investigation was subsequently much criticised for having brought about a near-certain miscarriage of justice. Oxford himself, however, then a detective sergeant, seems to have been beyond reproach.

In 1969 he left London to take up the post of Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) with the Northumbria Constabulary, subsequently Northumbria Police. Soon after taking up his new post he conducted an investigation prompted by the widespread disorder which accompanied a British tour by the South African Springboks rugby team.

Police; two years later he became Chief Constable. At Northumbria he had already shown a tendency to outspokenness, provoking questions in the House of Commons on one occasion in 1972 with his remarks about "the chicanery that goes on in the legal profession" and his complaints at a criminal justice system in which "the dice are loaded against the forces of law and order".

On Merseyside he continued in similar vein. He took charge there at a time when crime was not only increasing but changing. The drugs trade, especially, was a new and fast-growing menace, but there was also an alarming 45.8 per cent increase in recorded woundings and assaults between 1976 and

around the time he moved to Merseyside. Instead, as he later admitted, he was forced to rely on men in their mid-twenties or younger who, for the first time in their lives, found themselves in a position of uniformed authority over their peers.

Relations between the police and local youths were especially bad in the Toxteth area of Liverpool 8, an inner-city district with a large ethnic population, some of whom had been resident for three generations. Tension turned to violence in the summer of 1981.

Policeing a volatile urban environment on the basis of such views, he found himself hampered by a lack of mature and experienced officers, many of whom had left the force over pay and conditions at

district was subsequently the scene of an early experiment in "community policing", a return to the old principle of the man on the beat, with the aim of establishing "a better dialogue with the people".

Awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1977 and appointed CBE in 1981, Oxford found his later years at Liverpool somewhat blighted by a deterioration in his already poor relations with the police committee, with whom he was involved in endless wrangles over expenditure and accountability, especially in the aftermath of the miners' strike of 1984-85.

Knighthood in 1988, he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside. Later that year he presided at a series of disciplinary hearings against members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary arising out of the investigations conducted by the then Deputy Chief Constable of Manchester, John Stalker.

Kenneth Oxford is survived by his wife Muriel, whom he married in 1954. They had no children.

PROFESSOR STUART SUTHERLAND

Professor Stuart Sutherland, psychologist, died on November 8 aged 71. He was born on March 26, 1927.



If Stuart Sutherland's life had not been disrupted by a mental breakdown, he might have made an even greater mark as an experimental psychologist.

He was big of body and large of mind, with an intense intellectual energy which left him restless when not working, and a breadth of knowledge that encompassed philosophy, physics, history, architecture, drama, poetry, wine and beer, as well as his own discipline, psychology.

land and his former student N. J. Mackintosh published in 1971, was a major contribution to the study of learning and visual discrimination.

When Sussex University was being established, its second Vice-Chancellor, Asa Briggs, persuaded Sutherland to take the first chair of experimental psychology. From 1965 Sutherland rapidly assembled in Sussex the most exciting group of young researchers in the country.

Having established a robust visual discrimination protocol (the standard for all octopus workers ever since), he published a remarkable body of work on their visual capabilities over a number of years.

Sutherland was a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1961-62, and was something of a sensation in America. He told audiences of psychologists to study "artificial intelligence": he told audiences of the artificial intelligentsia to study experimental psychology.

In the early 1970s Sutherland suffered a nervous breakdown. He described his experiences and his treatment with the utmost candour in *Breakdown* (1976, second edition 1998). The book assessed current psychiatric practices and expressed his contempt for psychoanalysis.

Simon Gray transformed *Breakdown* into the memorable play *Melon*, which ran in the West End and on Broadway. When someone proposed that the central role be played by Robert Morley, who resembled Sutherland in appearance, the reaction was comical.

Sutherland's breakdown ended most of his serious scientific research, but not his other academic activities. He never ceased to write, contributing to *The Times Literary Supplement* and other papers. Covering a huge range of fields, his articles were always pointed and provocative, and often amusing.

JAMES GOLDMAN



James Goldman, playwright and screenwriter, died on October 28 aged 71. He was born on June 27, 1927.



Follies in London, 1987: Sondheim stood by Goldman's book, despite the critics

A versatile writer who liked to experiment with different forms, periods and styles — sometimes all at once — James Goldman made his biggest splash with the libretto for Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* and his screenplay *The Lion in Winter*, which won him an Oscar.

James Goldman was born in Chicago and attended Chicago and Columbia universities, and planned to be a music critic. But he was called up into the US Army, and by the end of his two years' service in Korea he had decided to try his hand at writing plays.

Here and *Losing My Mind*, it won the New York Drama Critics Circle award for Best Musical, as well as Best Actress in a Musical (Alexis Smith) and Best Director (shared by Harold Prince and Michael Bennett).

Two years later, however, it became a film, with Peter O'Toole as Henry and Katharine Hepburn as Eleanor, and in these hands the repertaire improved considerably. The play was revived out-of

London at Leatherhead in 1969. In 1967 a revival of *Follies* opened in London, starring Diana Rigg and Julia McKenzie in parts that had been considerably filled out for the occasion.

James Goldman was married twice: first to Marie McKeon in 1962, and secondly to Barbara Deren in 1975. He is survived by his second wife and by the son and daughter of his first marriage.

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THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION

BERLIN, Nov. 24 Dr Bergmann's Clinical Hospital, in the Ziegelstrasse, where several patients belonging to the poorer classes were inoculated by Dr Koch's method against lupus.

ON THIS DAY

VIENNA, Nov. 24 A chemical examination of Dr Koch's lymph was made in Vienna today at Dr Jullio's laboratory. Among the medical men present was the Vienna correspondent of the LANCET.

Vertical text on the left margin including 'AY NOVEMBER', 'NEWS IN 3', '3 hurt', 'helicopt', 'crashe', 'Body in pond', 'Pinochet warrant', 'mies', 'own'

THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY
ECONOMICS Janet Bush says US has no excuse for a recession PAGE 31
ARTS Move over, video: tomorrow's hi-tech fashion is here PAGES 39-42
SPORT Newcastle put their faith in Ferguson PAGES 44-52
TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1998

New measures in Queen's Speech follow opposition to watchdog's power
Labour seeks to protect FSA

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY
GROWING opposition to the controversial new powers proposed for the Financial Services Authority, the City's super-watchdog, has forced the Government to take unprecedented steps to ensure its safe passage through Parliament.

The Queen's Speech yesterday unveiled two revolutionary new measures to safeguard the passage of the Bill, which will establish the FSA as the most powerful financial regulator in the Western world.

The draft Bill has been widely criticised for proposing to give the FSA wide and sweeping powers but failing to make it fully accountable.

Senior City figures are concerned that the proposed legislation gives the new regulator too much power, and does not insist on a proper separation of its roles as investigator of market abuse, prosecutor of rule breakers, and disciplinary tribunal.

As a consequence, Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, will set up a cross-party committee drawn from both Houses to examine the Financial Services and Markets Bill before it reaches the Commons.

This move is only possible because of new procedures introduced under the modernisation of Parliament. Normally a Bill which ran out of time would have to be reintroduced in the next session of Parliament.

The Bill will create a single regulator for the financial services industry, as well as a single ombudsman to handle consumers' complaints. It will also give the FSA new wide-ranging powers to tackle market abuse.

Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that the joint committee would report around Easter, and then the Bill would begin its parliamentary stages "as soon as possible".

Southgate struggles to dismiss rumours of EMI takeover

EMI, the troubled British music group, yesterday attempted to shrug off continued takeover speculation as it reported dismal half-year results, lightened only by resilient profits and sales in North American markets.

Ecclestone's bond snubbed by banks

THE marketing of the \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) eurobond being issued by Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One Group was dealt a blow yesterday when two leading City investment banks declined to join the syndicate backing the deal.

Hinchliffe firm seeks administration order

FEELGOOD LEISURE, the mail-order company founded only ten months ago by Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial South Yorkshire businessman, has applied to be placed in administration.

M&S board called to crisis meeting

MARKS & SPENCER has summoned its overseas directors to London for a crisis board meeting called to end the row over who is to run the company.

Bovis plan hits shares in Atkins

SHARES in WS Atkins yesterday fell 5 1/2p to 55 1/2p on concern that the civil engineering consultancy will need a big share issue to fund its planned acquisition of Bovis, the construction manager, from P&O.

ITV decision day

The future financial map of ITV will be set out today by the Independent Television Commission when it reveals the terms on which it is willing to renew 11 of the 16 licences, with loss-making GMTV looking for respite from its heavy financial burden.

Cash call

Airtours, the travel group, is raising £250 million from a bond issue to invest in further acquisitions in Europe or North America. The company has recently been linked with France's Nouvelles Frontières.



Brian Duckworth, managing director of Severn Trent Water, with Beanie the otter. Severn Trent and Wildlife Trusts launched a scheme in Nottinghamshire yesterday as part of a national campaign to encourage otters back to British rivers. Severn Trent also announced £176.5 million interims. Story 28, Tempus 30



Robbie Williams: EMI star

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices (FTSE 100, FTSE All Share, Nikkei), US Rates (Federal Funds, Long bond, Yield), and London Money (3-month interbank, Life long gilt, Future (Dec)).

Commentary, page 29

Cartier advertisement featuring a 'Love bangle and ring' and contact information for the Cartier store in London (175/176 New Bond Street, London W1).

John Duffryn to lead more slowly

Engineering group... profits decline... 22 per cent... £258 million...

Plans on UK costs

Group... second-half... 1998... £132 million...

Plan for Ethical

Board... ethical... £10 million... Mr. John...

Improves 17%

Year... sixth advance... £140.3 million...

Chairman's stake

Shares... £140.3 million... £140.3 million...

Unsettled

Problems... £98 million... £98 million...

Progress at Sim

Company... £15 million... £15 million...

Progress at Sim

Company... £15 million... £15 million...

Vibroplan

Company... £15 million... £15 million...

Offers from top

Company... £15 million... £15 million...

No holding place for M&S



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

For two weeks, Marks & Spencer has assumed a lofty silence about the extraordinary debacle over the leadership of the company. This may have been deemed the most dignified way to deal with a most undignified situation but it cannot be allowed to continue. Today's board meeting must be followed by a statement to the world that exists beyond the upper echelons of Baker Street. Investors and staff need to be reassured that the non-executive directors are earning their fees and sorting out the mess.

they must have begun to make plans as to what arrangement might best serve the evolving needs of the company.

The understandable ambitions of Keith Oates to accede to the top job had percolated through to the City long before they appeared as a job application in the Sunday press. It would not take a non-executive director with the credentials of Dame Stella Rimington to pick up such information.

stand between Sir Richard and his executives.

Rumours still favour Sir Christopher Hogg, although he is well occupied elsewhere. Self-appointed headhunters are marauding the ranks of senior retailers to dig out suitable candidates. Lord MacLaurin was not amused when they rang him. If only to put a stop to such mercenary activities, M&S needs to act decisively now.

protocol sponsored by Visa and MasterCard in 1996 can do most of the work, but governments have to help, too.

Once states start enabling other people to do things, however, the danger is that they will fall for the temptation to exercise central control. When bureaucrats eye the Internet, they must be paralysed with worry at the explosively free flow of information they find there. While freedom of information laws hang fire, there is a new freedom of information to clamp down on.

No business like e-business

Electronic commerce via the Internet must have seemed irresistibly trendy when Peter Mandelson was scribbling around for his department's legislative contribution to modernising Britain. And why not? Any new market, medium or movement needs rules if it is to grow beyond the experimental and reach its full potential.

Mr Mandelson does not seem able to resist temptation any better than old-style politicians. The first part of his proposed Bill is an enabling measure that business has been asking for. In future, contracts could be made electronically, substituting an encoded super pin number for a pen and ink signature. You don't have to be a technicist to see that secure digital signatures could make a lot of business safer as well as easier. Good marks. Somehow, however, the urge

to control has crept in. The second half of the proposed Bill is liable to be about giving the police and other authorities keys to break the virtually hack-proof codes now routinely used to encrypt banking and other business traffic on the Internet.

The temptation is great. Criminal networking, money laundering or child pornography can as easily be scrambled as the day's money market trades. US laws are already imposing some restrictions on encrypting firms.

If codes become insecure, however, the potential for hackers and swindlers is immense. Nor is it theoretical. Five years ago, Russian hackers lifted £10 million from an international bank. Sadly, copies of codes given to the security services for safe keeping would be guaranteed to leak, let alone, as was suggested, any entrusted to the local post office.

If security were again compromised, use of the Internet would start to shrink again instead of expanding exponentially. Perhaps the DTI understands that be-

cause proposals have deliberately been left vague. Even registration of encrypters might be voluntary. Business will be watching for the detail of an upcoming Green Paper with mixed feelings, as will those who view any unregulated sector as a slash and burn farmer views virgin forest.

In search of the right formula

David Crossland blithely launched his £250 million bond issue on to the market without feeling any need to explain exactly what he intends to do with the money. Suffice to say that he wants to be ready to pick up the bargains he expects to come his way as the holiday industry continues to consolidate, and he reckons this money is much cheaper than equity finance.

Airtours shares shuddered as profit takers had their way, but the chaps at Morgan Stanley could have been forgiven a jealous twinge or two as they witnessed Mr Crossland's easy confidence. They are working flat out to persuade the market that the \$2 billion Formula One bond will make the finishing post. Despite a miserable reception from normally receptive syndication

desks, the Morgan Stanley team is not giving up yet. The sales pitch is now being targeted squarely at individual investing institutions, who might be persuaded that the question marks over the future income stream of Formula One can be adequately answered and that even if the EU's cartel-busting Karel Van Miert does his worst, he cannot stop the money flowing, eventually, to the business.

This is the team that managed to raise CPA from the near dead so it is not prepared to give up on the very much alive Formula One yet. But the coupon necessary to attract investors to the issue will have to be generous if it is to succeed. There must come a point when, unlike Mr Crossland, Mr Ecclestone has to ask whether the price is right.

FSA in limbo

AT LEAST one FSA bill is to go ahead. Supermarkets will be relieved not to have to fund the Food Safety Agency, but the Financial Services Authority is an even more problematic organisation. The complications inherent in rolling all regulators into one necessitate an agonisingly long process during which the FSA has responsibility but not power. The organisations now gathered under its Canary Wharf umbrella will have to muddle through this prolonged period in legislative limbo. The risk is that a major financial mess might slip through the cracks.

Airtours to raise £250m in bond issue

By Sarah Cunningham

AIRTOURS, the travel group, is raising £250 million from a bond issue to invest in further acquisitions in Europe or North America. The company is already in touch with a number of companies that it might acquire, and has recently been linked with France's Nouvelles Frontières.

from £38.5 million to £16.3 million. Turnover in that division rose from £34.5 million to £48.1 million. Mr Byrne said that overcapacity had been stripped out of the Scandinavian business. Trade had already picked up by the fourth quarter and in the first few weeks of the current year was 17 per cent ahead.

Cellnet is primed for sales leap

CELLNET, the UK's second-largest mobile telephone operator, said yesterday that it expected to sign more than 500,000 subscribers in the current quarter, setting a new quarterly record. Peter Erskine, managing director, said that the boom in the mobile telephone market continued. He forecast that 12.6 million Britons would have mobile phones by the end of this year, up from 8.4 million at the end of 1997. The total would rise to more than 15 million by the end of 1999.

Merger of paper duo to cost jobs

THOUSANDS of jobs are under threat as two heavyweights in the global paper industry announced plans to combine their businesses in an effort to halt the slide in prices. International Paper, the largest US player, announced a \$6.6 billion (£3.97 billion) merger with rival Union Camp. Only hours earlier, Smurfit Stone Container Corporation revealed plans to shut down almost a fifth of its mills with the loss of 3,600 jobs.

Tomb Raider film to benefit Eidos

EIDOS, the computer games company, yesterday said it expected to receive at least \$30 million (£18 million) of free publicity from the film adaptation of its Tomb Raider title, which features the racy animated heroine Lara Croft (Chris Ayres writes).

what percentage of box office and merchandising revenues Eidos would receive. Eidos reported a slightly increased pre-tax loss for the six months to September 30 of £18.9 million, including unexpected marketing costs of £1.9 million. Sales rose 118 per cent from £22 million to £47.6 million, while losses per share deepened from 70p to 80.6p. No dividend will be paid.

Shares lose early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices under 'ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES' section, listing various beverage companies and their market data.

Table of stock prices under 'BANKS' section, listing various financial institutions and their market data.

Table of stock prices under 'FOOD MANUFACTURERS' section, listing various food and beverage producers.

Table of stock prices under 'HEALTHCARE' section, listing various pharmaceutical and healthcare companies.

Table of stock prices under 'HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT' section, listing various consumer goods companies.

Table of stock prices under 'ELECTRONIC & ELECT' section, listing various electronics and electrical companies.

Table of stock prices under 'ENGINEERING' section, listing various engineering and technology companies.

Table of stock prices under 'INSURANCE' section, listing various insurance companies.

Table of stock prices under 'MEDIA' section, listing various media and entertainment companies.

Table of stock prices under 'INVESTMENT TRUSTS' section, listing various investment trusts.

Table of stock prices under 'DISTRIBUTORS' section, listing various distribution companies.

Table of stock prices under 'PRINTING & PAPER' section, listing various printing and paper companies.

Table of stock prices under 'PROPERTY' section, listing various real estate and property companies.

Table of stock prices under 'TELECOMMUNICATIONS' section, listing various telecommunications companies.

Table of stock prices under 'TRANSPORT' section, listing various transportation companies.

Table of stock prices under 'WATER' section, listing various water utility companies.

Table of stock prices under 'RETAILERS, FOOD' section, listing various food and grocery retailers.

Table of stock prices under 'RETAILERS, GENERAL' section, listing various general merchandise retailers.

Table of stock prices under 'PHARMACEUTICALS' section, listing various pharmaceutical companies.

Table of stock prices under 'SUPPORT SERVICES' section, listing various support and service companies.

Advertisement for 'Get Cellnet Business First from BT' featuring a mobile phone and promotional text.

Table of stock prices under 'BRITISH FUNDS' section, listing various UK-based investment funds.

Table of stock prices under 'SHORTS (under 5 years)' section, listing short-term investment options.

Table of stock prices under 'LONGS (over 10 years)' section, listing long-term investment options.

Table of stock prices under 'MEDIUMS (5 to 10 years)' section, listing medium-term investment options.

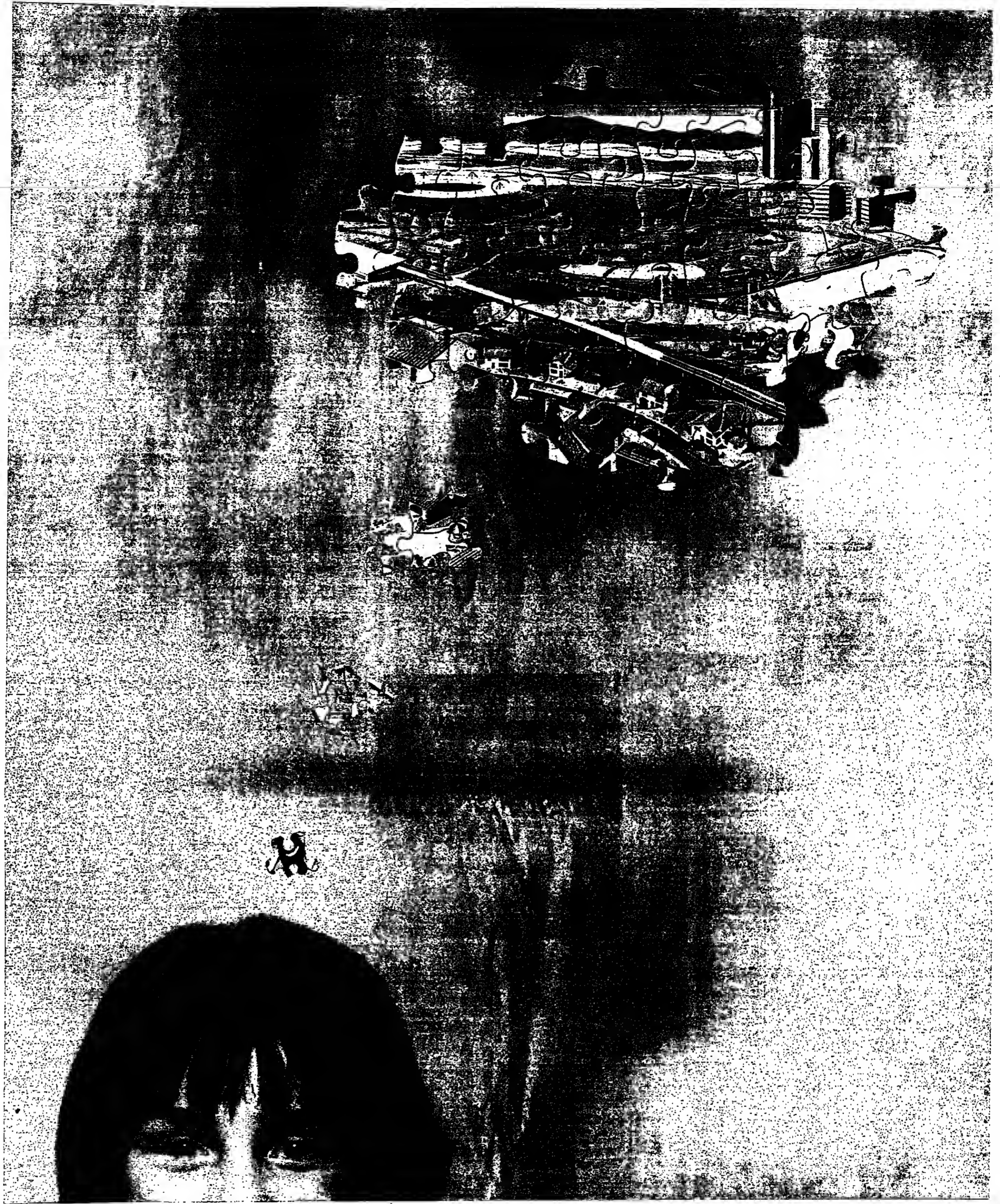
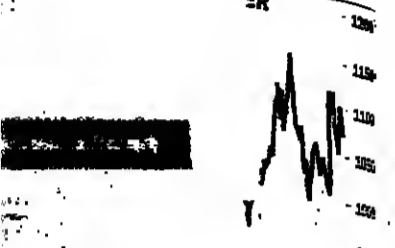
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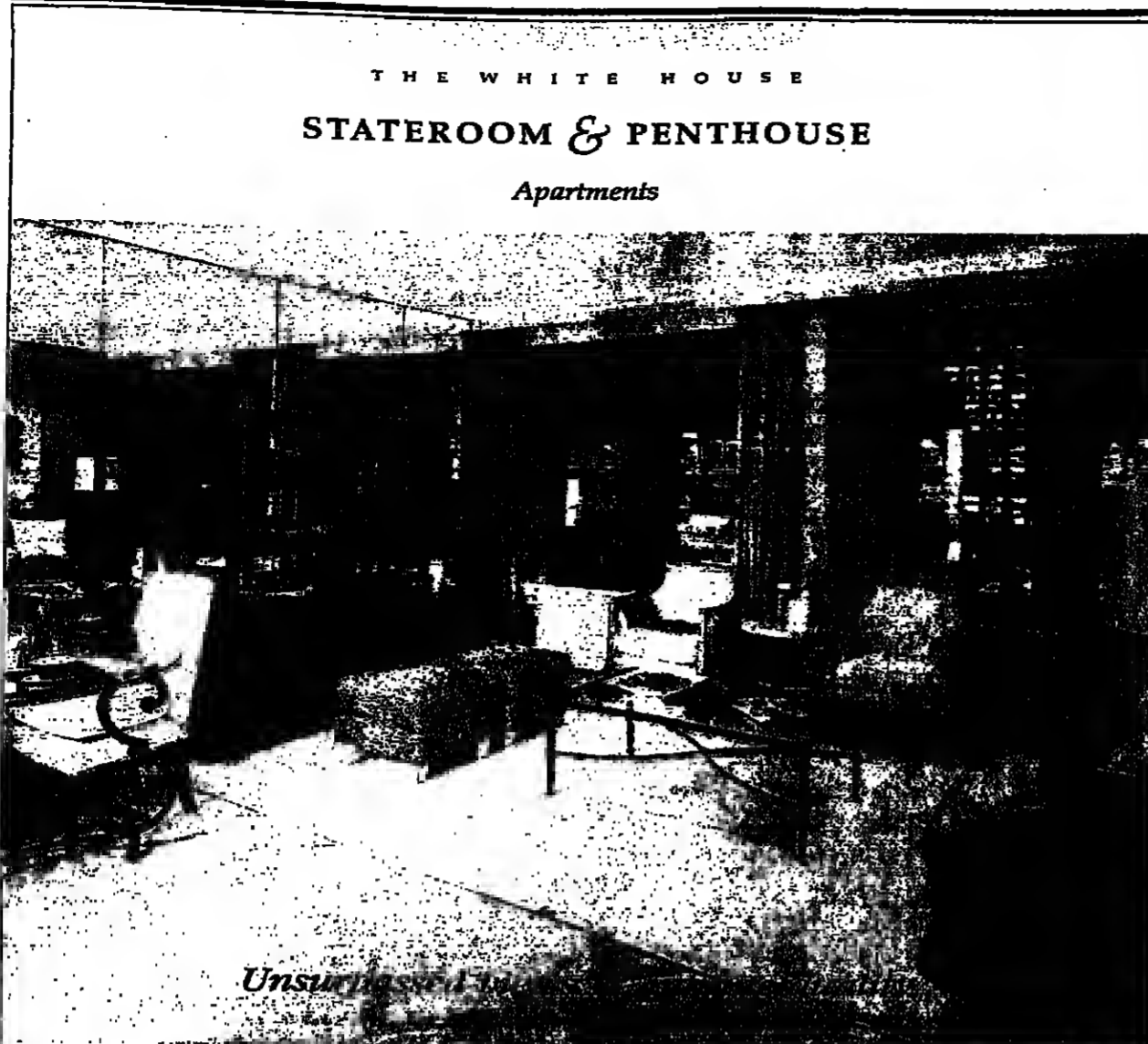
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LISTINGS

Rambert Dance in Sheffield

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merril Hargie

LONDON

BARBER OF SEVILLE: Lesley Garrett sings her first role in Jonathan Miller's riotous production of ENO's Rossini's comedy...



Lesley Garrett stars in the ENO's Barber

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The LSO under Sir Colin Davis embarks on a major Elgar series...

THOMAS ALLEN: The Schumann Suites continue as the distinguished English baritone joined by the pianist Martin Armstrong gives a recital...

ELSEWHERE: BELFAST: Jean Cocteau's cult film La Bête et le Bébé is given an operatic make-over by Philip Glass...

HUDDESFIELD: Contemporary Estonian harmonies with a spiritual touch today's festival bill...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

- THE BEST OF TIMES: The Britwell Theatre's programme of Jerry Herman songs from La Cage aux Folles, Mamma, Meek & Mad and Hello...
RETRIVAL: Phil's profound analysis of adultery among friends...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

- ANGEL SHARKS (15): Hectic, flashy French film about restless lawyers on the Riviera. Director, Manuel Passalunghi.
DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15): Delirious horror comedy thriller, with some smart dialogue...

ARTS

Accentuate the positive

With album sales in excess of seven million and a Mercury Music Prize on their mantelpiece, M People are one of the most successful British bands of the Nineties...

Keeping up chart appearances is the new Best Of compilation, which provides the backbone of the current tour. Although officially a quartet...

However, it soon became clear that Small's inimitable boom and bellow was not going to be done any favours by the frankly atrocious acoustics of the RDS Simonscourt Pavilion...

Stuck with a rut

It is a tribute to the West Country blues-rock quartet Reef that they sold out their current British tour after a year away from the music scene...

There was certainly little in the way of subtlety or sophistication on display in Nottingham. Instead, Reef delivered those familiar booming drums, towering choruses, and caveman whoops...



Feel-good arena pop: M People's Heather Small in performance at the RDS in Dublin

single remains the quartet's most dynamic and memorable song to date. Rather less impressively, the band still seemed to be stuck in a rut of their own making...

POP

Rocking with Reef

Master of loud art

In attempting to describe the famously pugacious sound of Maynard Ferguson's late-1950s band for which he played second trombone...

JAZZ

often enough to please nostalgic buffs. As soon as Ferguson took the stage, however, smearing piercingly high notes over the band's loping blues riff...

Given that such controlled rumbustiousness was to be the band's keynote, Ferguson's introduction of a ragacame as something of a surprise. After a trombone solo from Kelsey Grant...

CHRIS PARKER

ART GALLERIES

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HERITAGE Save our water ARCHITECTURE Pler of ro to pa in tow GREAT BRITISH HOME Rising stars in the art world PETER ROSE DANIEL ROSE

HERITAGE Save our warehouses

ARTS

GALLERIES

Icon-painting revived

ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney reports on the growing calls to regenerate Britain's derelict buildings as housing

Plenty of room to park in town?



Home is where the derelict building was: left, two of the ten disused warehouses in Manchester's Whitworth Street that now provide more than 1,000 flats; right, the once-derelict St Saviour's Dock in Southwark is a mix of businesses and homes

Lord Rogers of Riverside has a fight on his hands. His Urban Task Force was set up to identify brown-field sites to help to meet the Government's target of 4.4 million new homes in England by 2016. But it foresaw the need being met entirely by new development: in his prospectus, listed buildings are regarded simply as a constraint that "can effectively block redevelopment".

up to 100,000 homes can be created in empty commercial space. Loft apartments are now being created in old warehouses all over the country by private developers and housing associations; in Whitworth Street, Manchester, ten warehouses have been converted to more than 1,000 flats, creating a new residential community. In addition over 20 per cent of modern office space is empty in many town centres and, according to the report, "the number of office conversions [to housing] is much higher than anyone expected".

The big question is just how quickly these buildings can be brought back into use. The attraction of greenfield sites is that once services such as water and sewerage have been provided, building is easy. By contrast, persistence is needed to free up empty buildings. A handy report, *Joined Up Thinking*, published by the indefatigable Empty Homes Agency, describes successful action by local councils.

All of these categories are suitable for the single-person homes so much in demand. Falk says: "All this goes against the views of the volume housebuilders, who say the only thing people want is boxes on green fields in the middle of nowhere." One survey, showing that 76 per cent rejected the idea of living in urban areas, was found to have been conducted entirely among people who had just bought brand new suburban homes.

won, the Oxo Tower is handsomely restored, and a large number of local families occupy newly built terraces near by. The Government's call for much higher densities around major rail terminals could spark fierce battles with local communities in places such as King's Cross and Southwark. These are all the more unnecessary as English Heritage has a massive war chest for conservation area regeneration. If Rogers can make common cause with environmental groups, he could go down in history as the man who both revived the city and saved the countryside. And there will still be no shortage of land for new architecture on brownfield sites — up to 75,000 hectares, providing 3.5 million homes.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

PETER ROSE

Age: 21 Profession: Playwright. *Fleshy fantasy*. Aged 19, he wrote *Snatch*, a gruelling drama about a man and a woman who possess each other's bodies. Premiered by Soho Theatre Company at the Pleasance in London earlier this month, it was praised by *The Times*'s Jeremy Kingston as "alarming" and "remarkable".



Picture perfect: *Bloody Ugly*, completed when he was all of 17, opened at the White Bear Theatre, Kennington, last night and runs until December 13. "It's a fairly extreme story about an art dealer who visits a really working-class household, decides that the girl he finds there is a perfect work of art and offers her father a huge amount of money for her."

Any more scripts tucked away? Yes. *Monsters* has been lying around for five years. "It's about a girl who has no morals. It's OK, but you can tell I was 16 when I wrote it."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

A pestle to the faithful

The Russian iconographer's art is alive, well, and on show in London. Rachel Campbell-Johnston reports

Recently I visited Westminster Abbey. Outside, the rush-hour traffic shined and hassled. Big Ben bashed out the passing hour. But inside all was still. Thick walls filtered the fluster from the morning air. And, hanging on twin piers of the nave, a pair of icons gleamed, their solemn beauty seeming to capture and distil the quiet mood.



Virgin with Child, by the iconographer Sergei Fyodorov

It would be difficult to be an iconographer and not be religious, says Sergei Fyodorov, the Russian artist from whom this pair of icons was commissioned four years ago. He himself, having been brought up in Soviet Russia, came to his own Orthodox beliefs only later in life. He was already a teenage student at a Moscow art college when, captivated by the beauty of the icons in a museum, he grew curious and visited a church for the first time.

and unprofitable. The ancient techniques which Fyodorov follows cannot be hurried or made easier. "If a process takes 12 hours then it takes 12 hours," he says. "It can't be cut to six."

When the painting is complete — another slow process, since Fyodorov paints only in daylight and during the summer months — the gilt is burnished by rubbing with a smooth hard stone and the icon's surface sealed with a varnish made of amber, ground and melted in turpentine and linseed oil. Stirred over heat for five or six hours, it is applied as it cools, before it becomes too viscous.

Advertisement for The Royal Opera at Sadler's Wells. The production is 'The Bartered Bride' by Bedřich Smetana, directed by Francesca Zambello and conducted by Bernard Haitink and David Syrus. Tickets are £7.50 - £60. Contact: 0171-863 8000.

Kerr gives way to Gloucester owner

By Mark Souster

TOM WALKINSHAW, the owner of Gloucester and the Arrows motor racing team, was elected yesterday as the new chairman of English First Division Rugby (EFD).

Walkinshaw succeeds Donald Kerr, who had indicated his desire to step down and not seek re-election after three years in the post.

Kerr, at the forefront of the club's campaign during their dispute with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), said: "I wish Tom well. The last three years have been a challenging time, and I think we can now see light at the end of the tunnel."

Walkinshaw led the club's delegation that negotiated the Mayfair Agreement in May with the (RFU), which brought an element of stability to the game but failed to ensure a lasting peace.

Brian Balster, the RFU chairman, has said that Walkinshaw is "a man I can do business with".

Walkinshaw bought control of Gloucester for £23 million in April last year. He will also serve as one of four EFD representatives on the English Rugby Partnership board.

Macqueen disregards utility the Brisbane result. "We have not even considered that game. We didn't take that much satisfaction from the result. It was our first game to-

RUGBY UNION: MACQUEEN HAPPY TO EXPERIMENT AGAINST ENGLAND AT TWICKENHAM

Australia adopt new arrivals

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SINCE a clammy Brisbane night in June, Australia have made signal advances in the global game to a position where only South Africa can claim a better record.

The first of 13 internationals in 1998 brought Rod Macqueen's players a record 76-0 win against an indifferently prepared and desperately weakened England.

They will do so with the same party that procured a 32-21 victory against France in Paris on Saturday. That will take David Wilson, the Queensland flanker, to his sixth international appearance.

Wilson, who is expected to make his sixtieth appearance for Australia in the Cook Cup match on Saturday



Wilson, who is expected to make his sixtieth appearance for Australia in the Cook Cup match on Saturday

gether as a team; we had eight new players." Now he has lost eight of his front-line players but is happy to expose others to the international stage.

"We have always had a prob-

lem with depth in Australia," Macqueen said. "But we are happy with the resolve in the team and the maturity they have shown."

Paterson put on defensive

THE general state of rugby in Scotland, and the efficiency of its administration in particular, will come under scrutiny tonight at a specially convened meeting of the general committee of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) at Murrayfield.

Paterson has held office since early last year, during which time the stock of Scotland in world rugby has tumbled, the 35-10 defeat by South Africa on Saturday being only the latest in a long run of losses.

attach no direct blame to the former international scrum half for those setbacks, they have been scathing over the union's worsening financial state and the turmoil that has beset the game.

Last week, it was learned that the SRU's indebtedness had grown to almost £17 million. Much of that can be attributed to the policy of employing most of the country's leading players on full-time SRU contracts.

playing, will serve them well during the World Cup campaign in Ireland next year.

Gloucester hope to add Kingsley Jones to their back-row resources after Ebbw Vale found themselves forced to put their best players up for sale.

Jones, the openside flanker capped ten times by Wales, met officials at Kingsholm last week and it is hoped that agreement can be reached by the

weekend. John Fidler, the Gloucester team manager, said: "Negotiations are at an early stage with the player and Ebbw Vale, but with injuries to Simon Devereux and Pete Glanville, we are thin on the ground in the back row."

Paul Sampson, the Wasps wing capped by England against South Africa in Cape Town in July, plays for Mickey Steele-Bodger's XV in the annual match against Cambridge University at Grange Road this afternoon.

Australia: C Latham (Queensland), J S Little (Queensland), D J Herbert (Queensland), M P Grey (New South Wales), J W C Horst (Australian Capital Territory), S Larkham (ACT), G M Gregan (ACT), P E Norledge (ACT), P M Keane (NSW), A T Bledsoe (NSW), T M Bowman (NSW), J A Eales (Queensland), captain, M J Cookhouse (Queensland), O J Wilson (Queensland), T S Kotu (Queensland), Rapaeramae C Whitaker (NSW), M H M Edwards (NSW), M Hardy (ACT), V Oshagwanaga (NSW), O Flanagan (ACT), C Bledsoe (NSW), M Foley (Queensland)

Lomu prepares special day for youngsters

JONAH LOMU will be in Kent on Sunday morning taking a coaching session for the mini and junior sections at Thanet Wanderers RFC in Broadstairs.

The All Black apparently jumped at the chance to spend some time with the youngsters and local sponsors were quick to offer financial assistance to help to raise money for the National Children's Liver Disease Foundation.

Premature exit

At 2.45 pm on Saturday, two intrepid Italy supporters turned up at the Huddersfield Town FC ticket office asking for their money back for seats that they had bought just half an hour before.

Well-fed Lions

If the unbeaten 1974 Lions thought that their tour was hard going, the 25th anniversary reunion next year promises to be even more demanding.

Hastings battle

MARK SOUSTER



Cash-strapped

Banbury fare

Hastings battle

Well-fed Lions

Hastings battle

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CHANGING TIMES

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THE TIMES Chris McG Durac

RICHARD EVANS

LINGFIELD PARK

Berry

SMART MOVES

THE Hackwood Park Estate near... in Hampshire...

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...home help...

...1.10 SPONSOR A RACE FOR A BIRTHDAY MAIDEN...

...1.10 SPONSOR A RACE FOR A BIRTHDAY MAIDEN...

Chris McGrath meets a young rider taking aim at the Hennessy Durack plans Newbury fling

THE relatively late flowering of Kiern Fallon on the Flai has, to some degree, been accommodated by its rather barren soil...



Durack is making rapid strides under the expert tutelage of Harvey Smith

RICHARD EVANS Narr: RIO'S KING (2.00 Chepstow) Next best: Plumbob (2.00 Hexham)

By contrast, National Hunt is flourishing a generation of rising stars in the slipstream their indefatigable young master, Tony McCoy...

very good in both respects and is getting better by the week. His technique over a fence is very good and, if he gets the right breaks, he'll go places.

It's amazing what you learn just listening to him. Durack says of Smith, "People say to him, speak after dinner, but I can hear him for nothing over breakfast.

There were only four runners and, after jumping well early, he jumped to the front and started really tanking into them."

Llewellyn profits in test of stamina

THE Severn seems to fire easily of its usual route through Worcester and the adjacent racecourse was only freed of floodwater a few days ago.

Further rain ensured heavy going for yesterday's £20,000 Hennessy Phoenix Bredstock Worcester Novices' Chase - and a sufficient test of stamina for Ocean Hawk to retrieve a cause that had looked entirely hopeless in the back straight (Chris McGrath writes).

Lord Of The River, who would have been an appropriate winner, had beaten Ocean Hawk over a shorter trip at Exeter three weeks ago and again jumped with aplomb in front. Two out, however, he gave Jamie Osborne another painful fall - which left the challenging Tiraldo in front and Ocean Hawk, going nowhere in fourth when the tempo first increased, suddenly forging his way irresistibly back into contention.

LINGFIELD PARK THUNDERER 12.10 Daintree, 12.40 Quiet Arch, 1.10 Cottage Maid, 1.00 The Starburst, 2.10 Raspberry Trojan, 2.40 Pas De Memoires, 3.10 Tootton, 3.40 Trajan Hero.

GOING STANDARD SIS DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.10 HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP (Div F: £1,966; 1m 20) (14 runners)

12.40 PRIVATE BOXES FOR THE DAY CLAIMING STAKES (£2,085; 1m 40) (18)

1.10 SPONSOR A RACE FOR A BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,840; 1m) (12)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: G. Bourne, 3 winners from 23 runners...

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1.40 DISCOUNTS FOR RACING NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £2,578; 6f) (14)

2.10 HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP (Div II: £1,956; 1m 20) (14)

2.40 INSIDE TRACK RACING CLUB CLASSIFIED STAKES (£3,485; 7f) (12)

3.10 LADBRIDGE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (Div I; £2,515; 12f) (12)

3.40 LADBRIDGE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (Div II; £2,502; 7f) (12)

Berry to hand over reins JACK BERRY is to hand his reins over to his son, Alan...

HEXHAM THUNDERER 1.00 Stash The Cash, 1.30 Rydux, 2.00 Radical Choice, 2.30 Wicklow Way, 3.00 The Snow Bug, 3.30 Elegant City.

GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE: JACKPOT (MEETING) SIS

1.00 BUCHANAN SMOOTH NOVICES HANDICAP (Div II: £1,956; 1m 20) (14)

1.30 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (£2,364; 3m) (10)

2.00 PRINCES TRUST VOLUNTEERS HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (£2,034; 2m 4f) (11)

Worcester 1.00 (m) heavy, 1.30 (m) heavy, 2.00 (m) heavy, 2.30 (m) heavy, 3.00 (m) heavy, 3.30 (m) heavy.

Market Rasen 1.00 (m) heavy, 1.30 (m) heavy, 2.00 (m) heavy, 2.30 (m) heavy, 3.00 (m) heavy, 3.30 (m) heavy.

2.30 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,333; 2m) (18)

3.00 JOHN EUSTACE SMITH TROPHY (NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE) (£3,425; 3m 10) (12)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: T. Gentry, 4 winners from 12 runners...

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS Worcester, Market Rasen, Lingfield

Lingfield 1.00 (m) heavy, 1.30 (m) heavy, 2.00 (m) heavy, 2.30 (m) heavy, 3.00 (m) heavy, 3.30 (m) heavy.

Market Rasen 1.00 (m) heavy, 1.30 (m) heavy, 2.00 (m) heavy, 2.30 (m) heavy, 3.00 (m) heavy, 3.30 (m) heavy.

Lingfield 1.00 (m) heavy, 1.30 (m) heavy, 2.00 (m) heavy, 2.30 (m) heavy, 3.00 (m) heavy, 3.30 (m) heavy.

CHEPSTOW THUNDERER 12.50 Distant Echo, 1.20 RIO'S KING (nap), 1.50 Flagship Uberalles, Timekeeper's top rating: 1.20 WINSTON RUN.

12.50 TIPPERARY NOVICES CHASE (£2,803; 2m 110yds) (7 runners)

1.20 KILLARNEY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,364; 2m 4f) (16 runners)

1.50 DONEGAL HURDLE (INTERMEDIATE RACE) (£8,775; 2m 110yds) (4 runners)

2.20 SCOTTISH EQUESTRIAN/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP CHASE (£5,095; 2m 3f 110yds) (5 runners)

2.50 49'S HANDICAP HURDLE (SHOWCASE RACE) (£5,199; 3m) (8 runners)

3.25 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Division 1; £1,660; 2m 110yds) (14 runners)

3.55 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Division 2; £1,660; 2m 110yds) (13 runners)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: G. Bourne, 3 winners from 23 runners...

Worcester 1.00 (m) heavy, 1.30 (m) heavy, 2.00 (m) heavy, 2.30 (m) heavy, 3.00 (m) heavy, 3.30 (m) heavy.

Market Rasen 1.00 (m) heavy, 1.30 (m) heavy, 2.00 (m) heavy, 2.30 (m) heavy, 3.00 (m) heavy, 3.30 (m) heavy.

Lingfield 1.00 (m) heavy, 1.30 (m) heavy, 2.00 (m) heavy, 2.30 (m) heavy, 3.00 (m) heavy, 3.30 (m) heavy.

هكذا من الأصل

TENNIS
Henman eases past Rios with stirring display

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN HANOVER

TIM HENMAN forged an outstanding start to the ATP Tour world championship last night with a convincing defeat of Marcelo Rios, the world No 2 in straight sets. It was a comprehensive triumph for Henman, who did not need his best form to topple the temperamental Chilean.



Moya's triumph over Kucera was his first indoors this year

like I played in the first set every day," Sampras said. "Things only click like that every now and again." The difference is that Sampras makes things click when he needs it most.

Sampras triumphed 6-2, 6-4 in just 66 minutes. He was electric in every facet, his movement plainly sharpened by a 13-day rest. "You can't play



Sampras sends down another devastating service on his way to a straight-sets victory over Kafelnikov yesterday

SNOOKER

Doherty falls to practice partner

By PHIL YATES

BY HIS own admission, Ken Doherty suffered the worst collapse of his career when Fergal O'Brien, a fellow Irishman and good friend, rallied to defeat him 9-7 for a quarter-final place in the Liverpool-Victoria United Kingdom championship at Bourne-mouth yesterday.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Pessoa will compete at Olympia
EQUESTRIANISM: Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, who, in October, became the only rider to win both the world championships and the World Cup in the same year, will compete at the Olympia International Show Jumping championships in London from December 17 to 21.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for AMERICAN FOOTBALL, NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL), BOWLS, and CRICKET. Includes match results and scores.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing football fixtures for various leagues including Premier League, Championship, and others.

CRICKET

Table listing cricket fixtures and results, including one-day international matches and domestic league games.

REAL TENNIS

Table listing real tennis fixtures and results, including matches between players like J. P. Jones and S. Vignoli.

ICE HOCKEY

Table listing ice hockey fixtures and results, including NHL games.

REAL TENNIS

Table listing real tennis fixtures and results, including matches between players like J. P. Jones and S. Vignoli.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement featuring a bridge diagram and text by Robert Sheehan.

Advertisement for 'Love All IMPs' by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'Dealer North' by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'North opened One Diamond' by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'er had had eight clubs to the king-jack' by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'Had West ducked smoothly' by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

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Advertisement for 'Had West ducked smoothly' by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement featuring a chess diagram and text by Raymond Keene.

Advertisement for 'Space advantage' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'To launch The Times Kasparov Chess Challenge' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'White: Garry Kasparov' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'Alekhine's Defence' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'Two conditions apply' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'The Times book' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'White to play' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Advertisement for 'Solution, page 50' by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

WORD-WATCHING advertisement by Philip Howard.

WINNING MOVE advertisement by Raymond Keene.

SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST.

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By Matt D...

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TENNIS 47

Henman makes perfect start in ATP Tour World Championship

SPORT

MOTOR RALLYING 50

Burns avoids pitfalls to triumph in Welsh forests



WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 1998

Newcastle insist £8 million signing will partner Shearer and not replace him Gullit gives Ferguson his head

By GEORGE CAULKIN AND STEPHEN WOOD

SOMETIMES it takes a simple picture to underline the weight of countless words...

Having spent much of the weekend describing his inheritance as a "relegation team"...

Much to the chagrin of his legion of supporters in the blue half of Merseyside...

His arrival comes amid another spate of speculation surrounding the position of Alan Shearer...

Gullit's contention yesterday that Shearer is "not for sale"...



Ferguson leaves St James' Park yesterday after emerging from talks over his unexpected £8 million move from Everton to Newcastle United. Photograph: Owen Humphreys

know what the board and the manager are thinking. Confusing agendas are clearly being set...

fresh chance and a new challenge. "He is very happy to come," Gullit said.

However, he was present at a board meeting yesterday when the dispute was resolved.

Ferguson goes for the kill... 49 Wenger remains hopeful...

not know anything about it until late on Monday night and that is not right.

have spent here this season, the players we have got and decided that I would try and work around the problem.

"Instead of walking away, I had discussions with a few people and, as a result, I am happy to stay manager of Everton."

A similarly self-destructive trail leads steadily back to his early days in Scotland.

Gullit, meanwhile, must now try to succeed where others have failed in controlling

the suspect temperament of a player who attracts disciplinary trouble as regularly as he finds the net.

Ferguson was involved in a head-butting incident with John McStay, an offence that eventually saw him serve a six-week prison sentence in Barlinnie Prison in Glasgow.

Since Smith, who sold Ferguson to Everton for £4 million in 1994, succeeded Howard Kendall, a host of clubs have inquired about Ferguson's availability.

During a 4-0 victory over Raith Rovers at fbrox in 1994.

United's plans to expand granted

By STEPHEN WOOD

MANCHESTER United received planning permission yesterday to extend the capacity of their Old Trafford stadium...

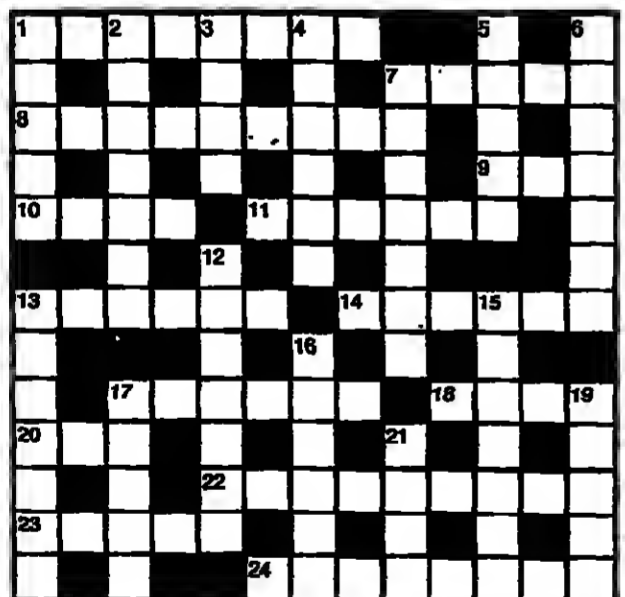
United will build a new tier of seating above the existing East and West stands, a development that will increase the capacity by 12,000.

United, therefore, made certain concessions to Trafford council. The £20 million cost includes a £1 million donation towards a package designed to improve street cleaning, car parking and congestion.

Barnsley, of the Nationwide League first division, are hopeful of signing Carlton Palmer from Southampton.

Chester City and Halifax Town, both of the Nationwide League third division, have been charged with failing to control their players by the FA after a brawl during their league game on November 10.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1572

- ACROSS: 1 Improvident (8), 7 Swim; apply water to (wound) (5), 8 Order; act of imprisonment (9), 9 White wine/cassis drink (5), 10 Pare; neat (4), 11 Take away; Billy Bunter's form (6), 13 Missing company (6), 14 A football club's suit (6), 17 Knock about; a food coating (6), 18 Rough attempt; attack with knife (4), 20 A tree sounds like pelt (3), 22 Remiss (9), 23 T S - poet (5), 24 Intensify (8). DOWN: 1 Gem surface (5), 2 A perennial; Thomas - poet/composer (7), 3 Beast's den (4), 4 One being painted; easy catch (6), 5 Amount bet (5), 6 Push down; make miserable (7), 7 A bad error; a loaf (7), 12 Brazenly overt (7), 13 Published handbook (7), 15 Go back; a nook (7), 16 Scanty (6), 17 Plain; edge band of egg silk (5), 19 One passed on in relay race (5), 21 Ruler; a chessman (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 1571: ACROSS: 4 Augur, 7 Quixotic, 8 Fish, 9 Kamikaze, 10 Shroud, 13 Mahout, 14 Squawk, 15 Vertex, 18 Transfer, 19 Port, 20 Demijohn, 21 Payee. DOWN: 1 Squint, 2 Zither, 3 Low-key, 4 Activate, 5 Gadabout, 6 Reject, 11 Unusably, 12 Downside, 14 Satrap, 15 Virgil (Vergil), 16 Raptor, 17 Equine.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE: The Times Two Crosswords (Book 1), The Times Crosswords (Book 2), The Times Crosswords (Book 3), The Times Crosswords (Book 4), The Times Crosswords (Book 5).



England shown in bad light

They would have needed searchlights, never mind floodlights, to look for survivors if the players had still been on the field when the storm that washed out the first Test broke over the Galiba yesterday.

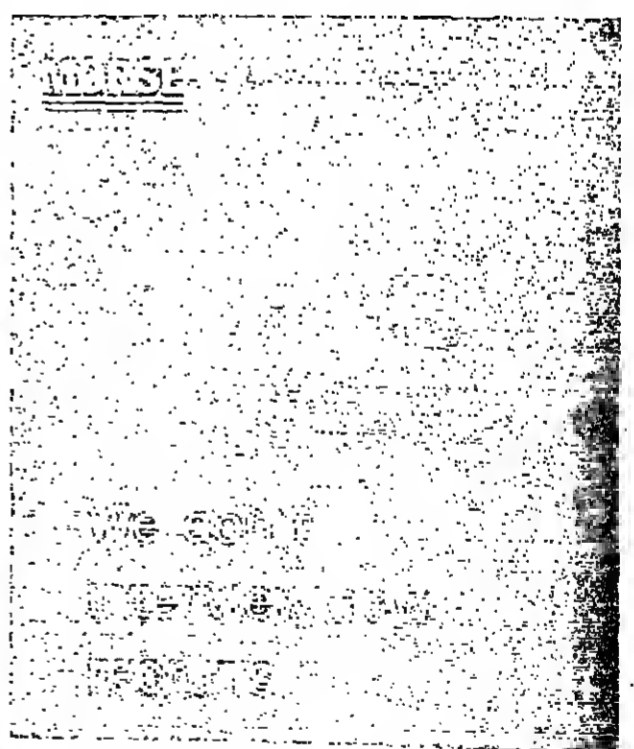
The issue will not go away. Every time that bad light stops play during the Ashes series, England's refusal to agree to an International Cricket Council (ICC) condition allowing play to continue under floodlights is going to be held against them.

with England's six specialist batsmen out and Cork and Croft fighting for survival. Taylor had already taken off his fastest bowler, McGrath, after one over because the umpires had told him that if he continued to bowl, they would have to go off for bad light.

the game that allows the possibility of more hours to be played. People want to see Test cricket, people want to see results. If lights can be provided to add time to any game, they should be.

said. "This was introduced in Sheffield Shield cricket two years ago and I am sure that the ICC will eventually make a ruling that it should happen wherever floodlights are available."

So why are England not playing under the regulation in this series? They vetoed it, as was their right, when the playing conditions were finalised on the grounds that they had not experienced playing under lights during the day with a red ball.



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Advertisement for NMA THE GYSTI featuring a large image of a person's face and text including 'NMA THE GYSTI', 'INSIDE CR...', and 'Everything'.